Pet Shop of Horrors

ペットショップ　オブ　ホラーズ

8

秋乃茉莉

ISBN 1591825059

Pet Shop of Horrors

Volume 8

by Matsuri Akino

TOKYOPOP®

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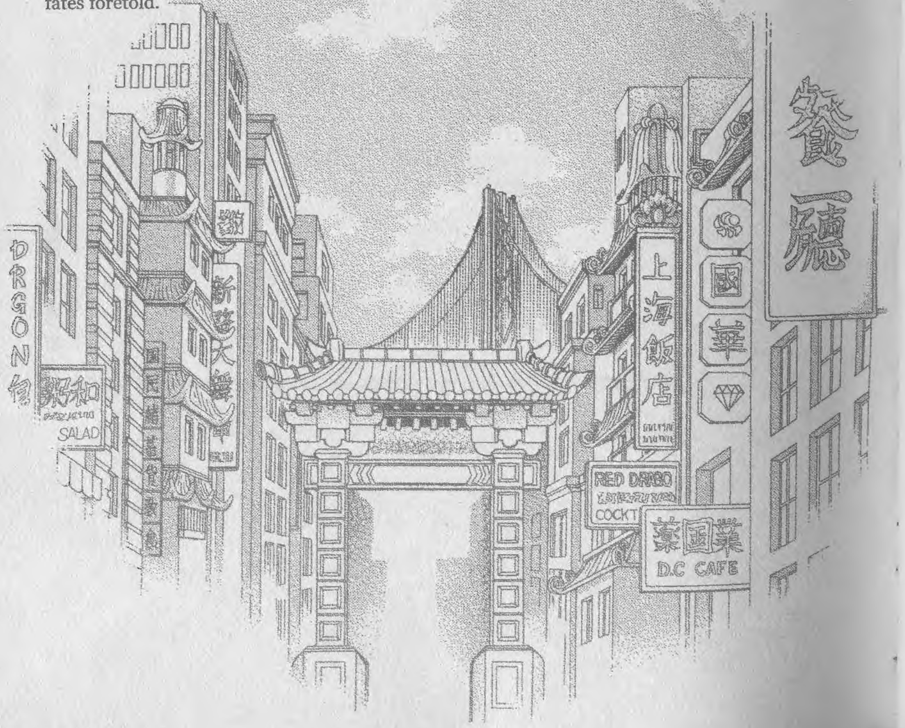
The Story so far

Plumes of mist billow up from the back alleys of Chinatown, home to a variety of merchants of the occult and mystical. And in the crevices of this urban barrio sits a solitary pet shop. Its proprietor, an enigmatic figure known as Count D, beckons through his doors the injured and the scarred, introducing them to creatures wondrous and bizarre.

Our guide through this mysterious landscape is one Detective Leon Orcot who has traced a series of seemingly unrelated crimes to Count D and his Pet Shop of Horrors. A steadfast skeptic, Leon dismisses as trickery the inexplicable events he witnesses. But in his continual attempts to prove D's guilt, this hard-boiled dick inevitably finds himself enraptured by the illusions around him.

The detective, therefore, has formed a strange friendship with his suspect. And as the bond between the two thickens, one must question who has the upper hand. Is the Count playing into the detective's hands, or is it the other way around? Now, the veils of secrecy are slowly being withdrawn...the hidden truths of the detective and the dark secrets of the Count are soon to be revealed.

Prepare yourselves now for four tales of wonder and woe in which lessons are learned and fates foretold.



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created by Matsuri Akino

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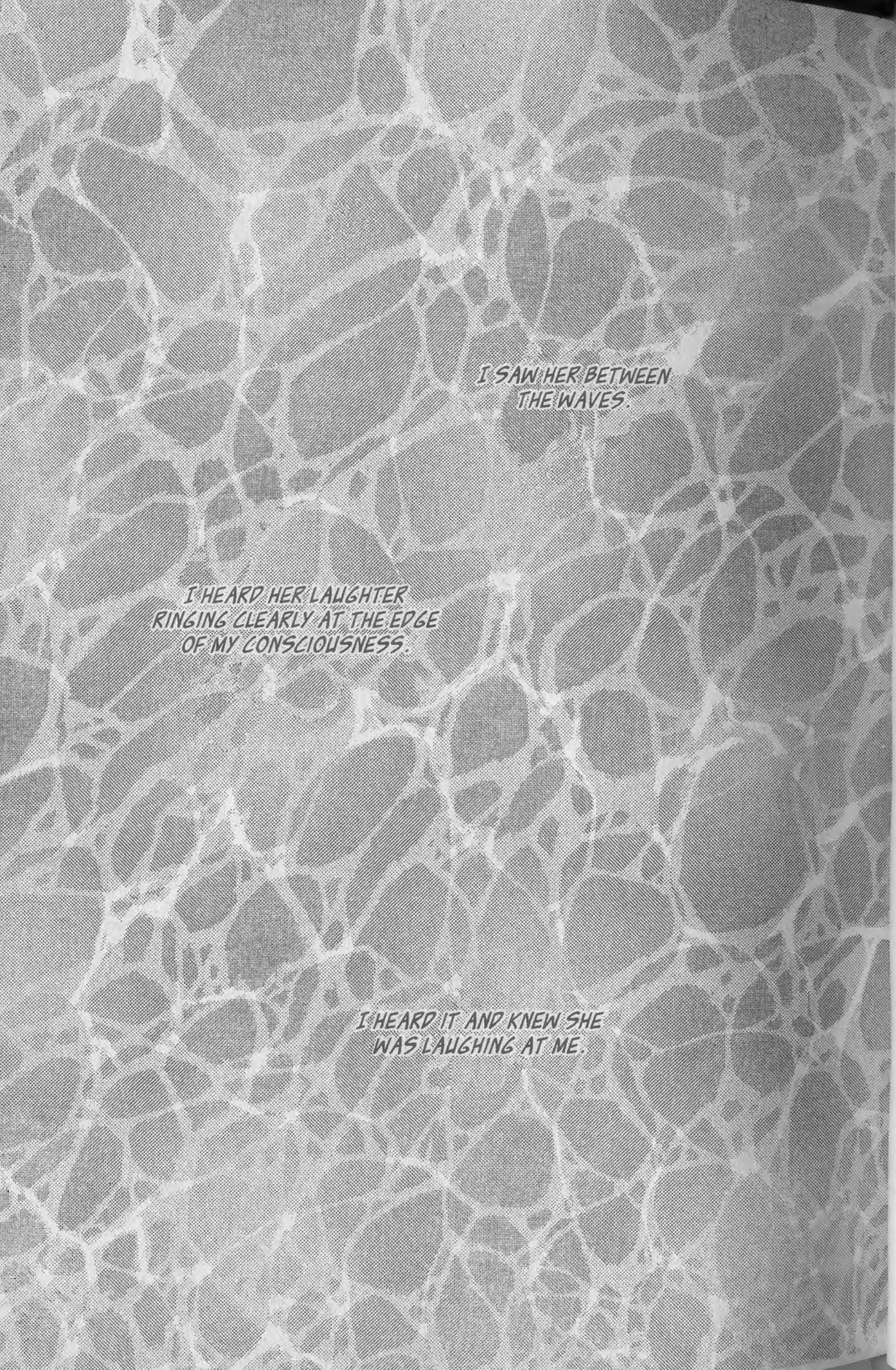
I SAW HER BETWEEN THE WAVES.
I HEARD HER LAUGHTER RINGING CLEARLY AT THE EDGE OF MY CONSCIOUSNESS.
I HEARD IT AND KNEW SHE WAS LAUGHING AT ME.

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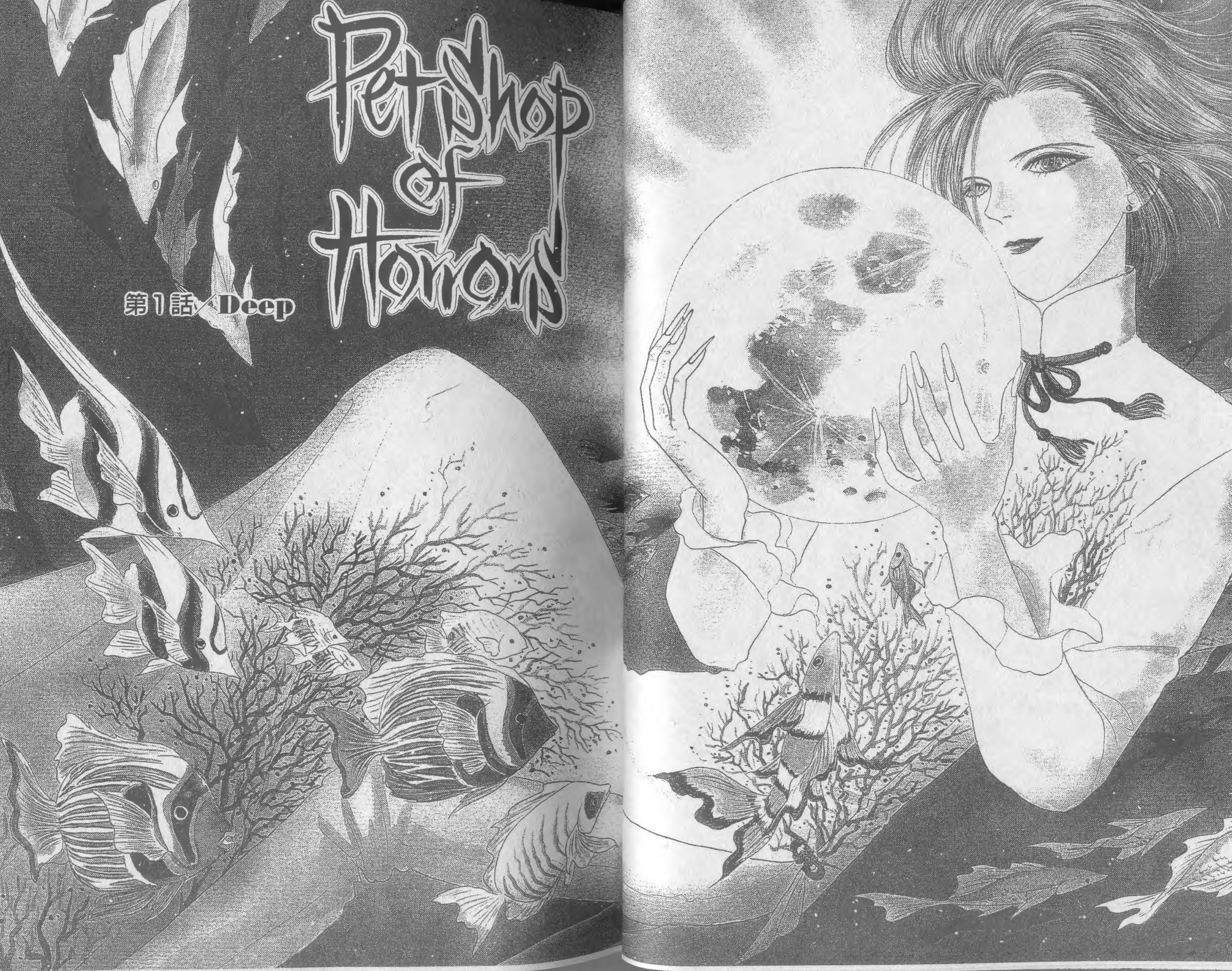
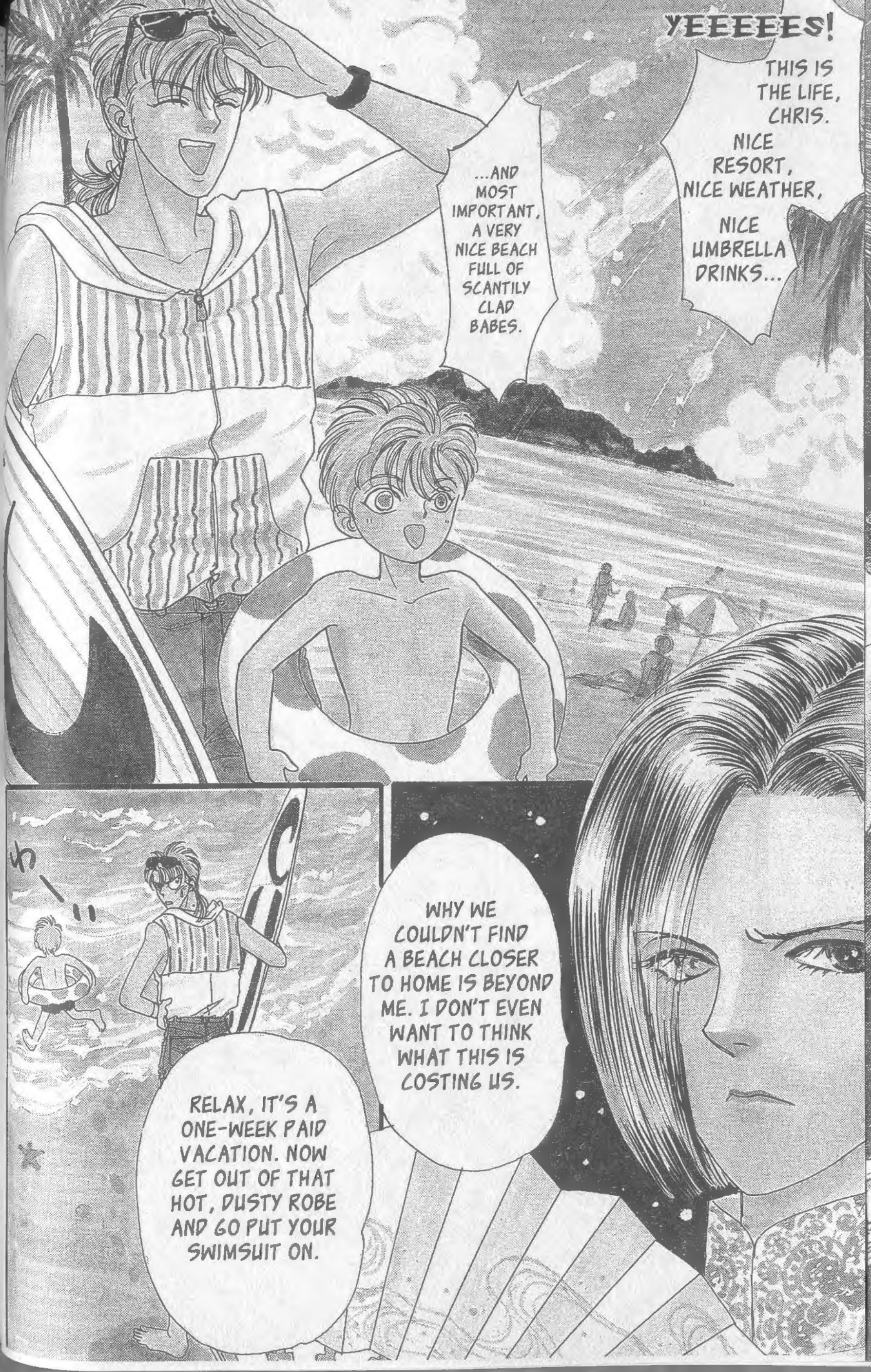
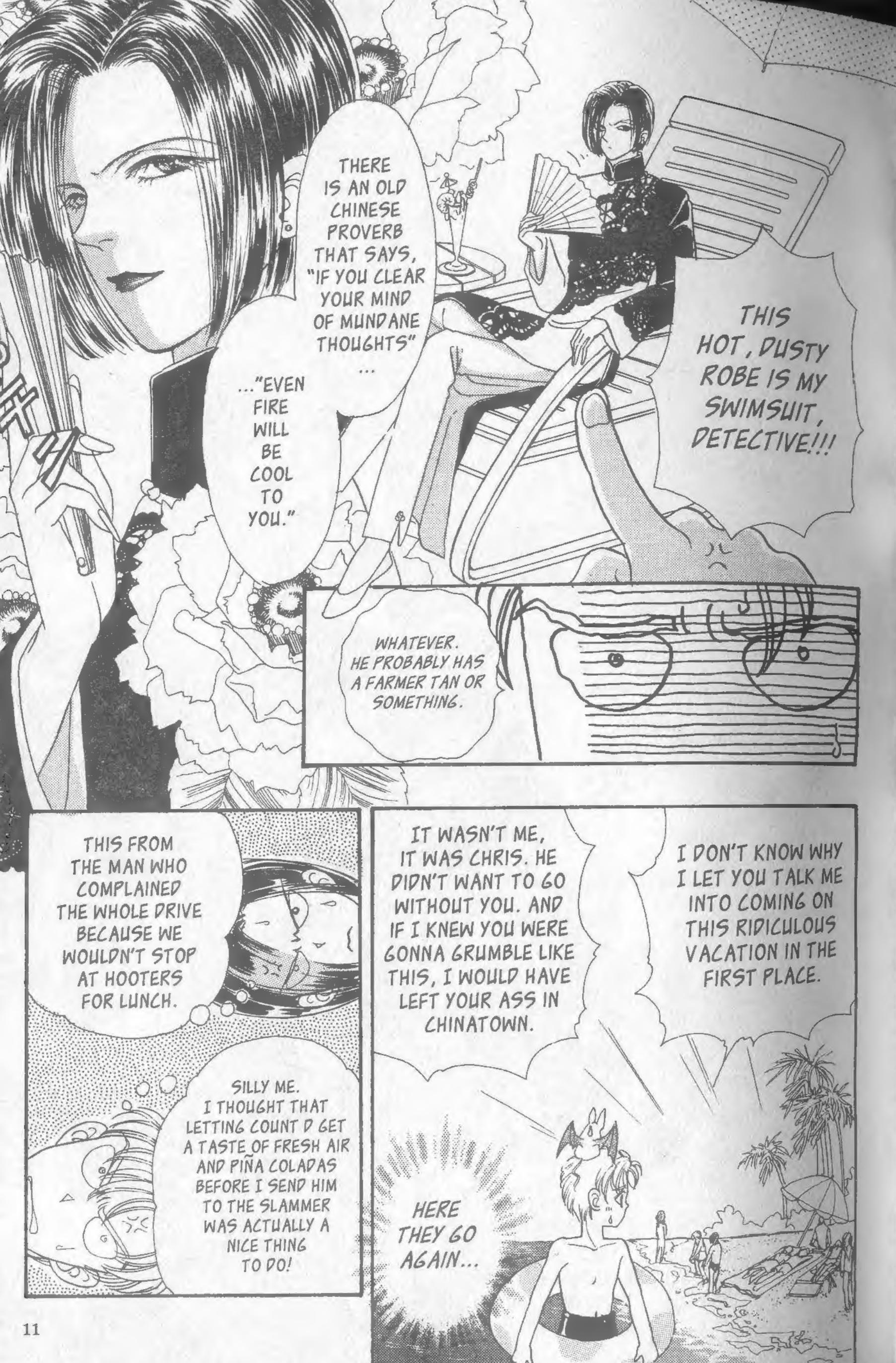
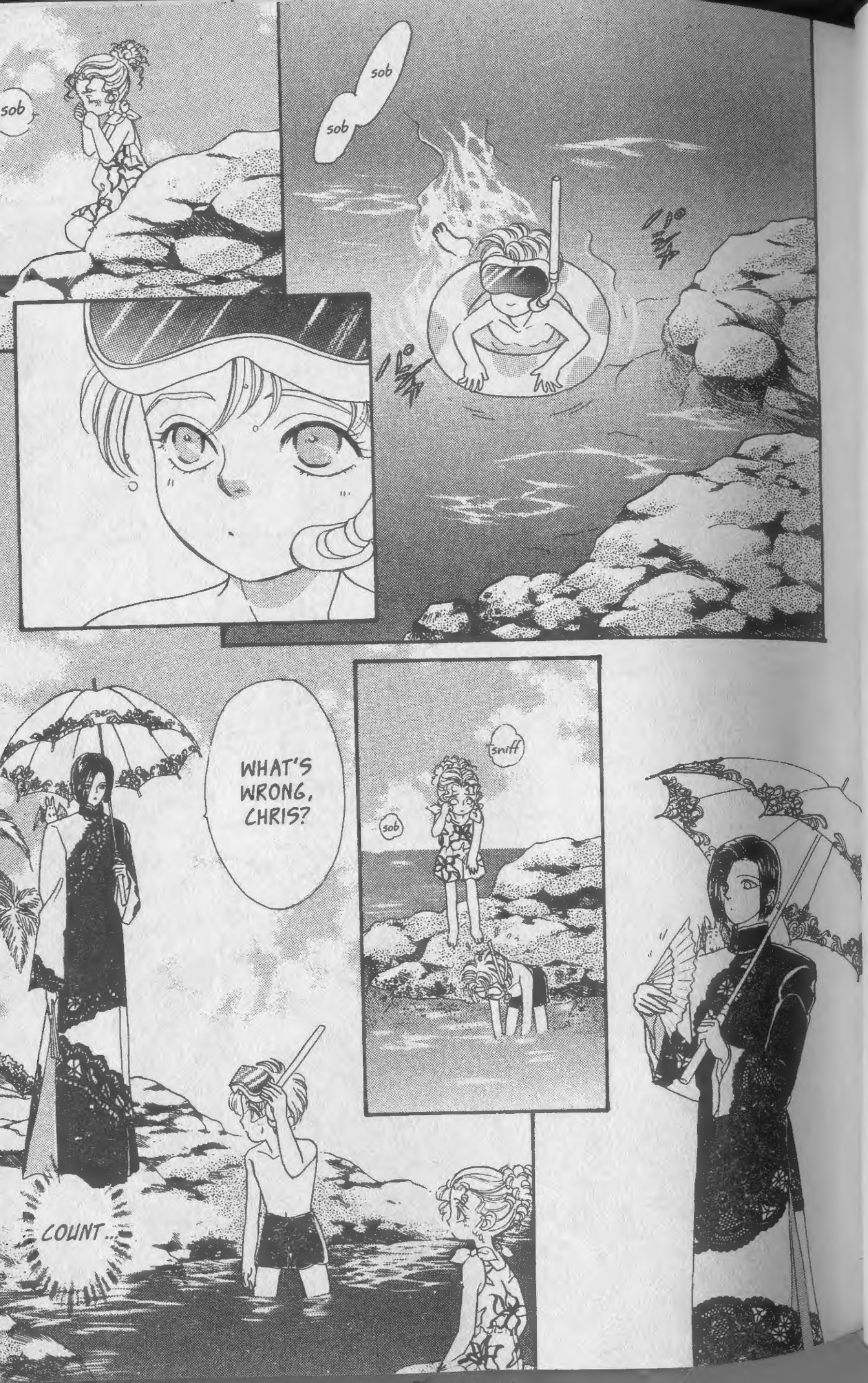
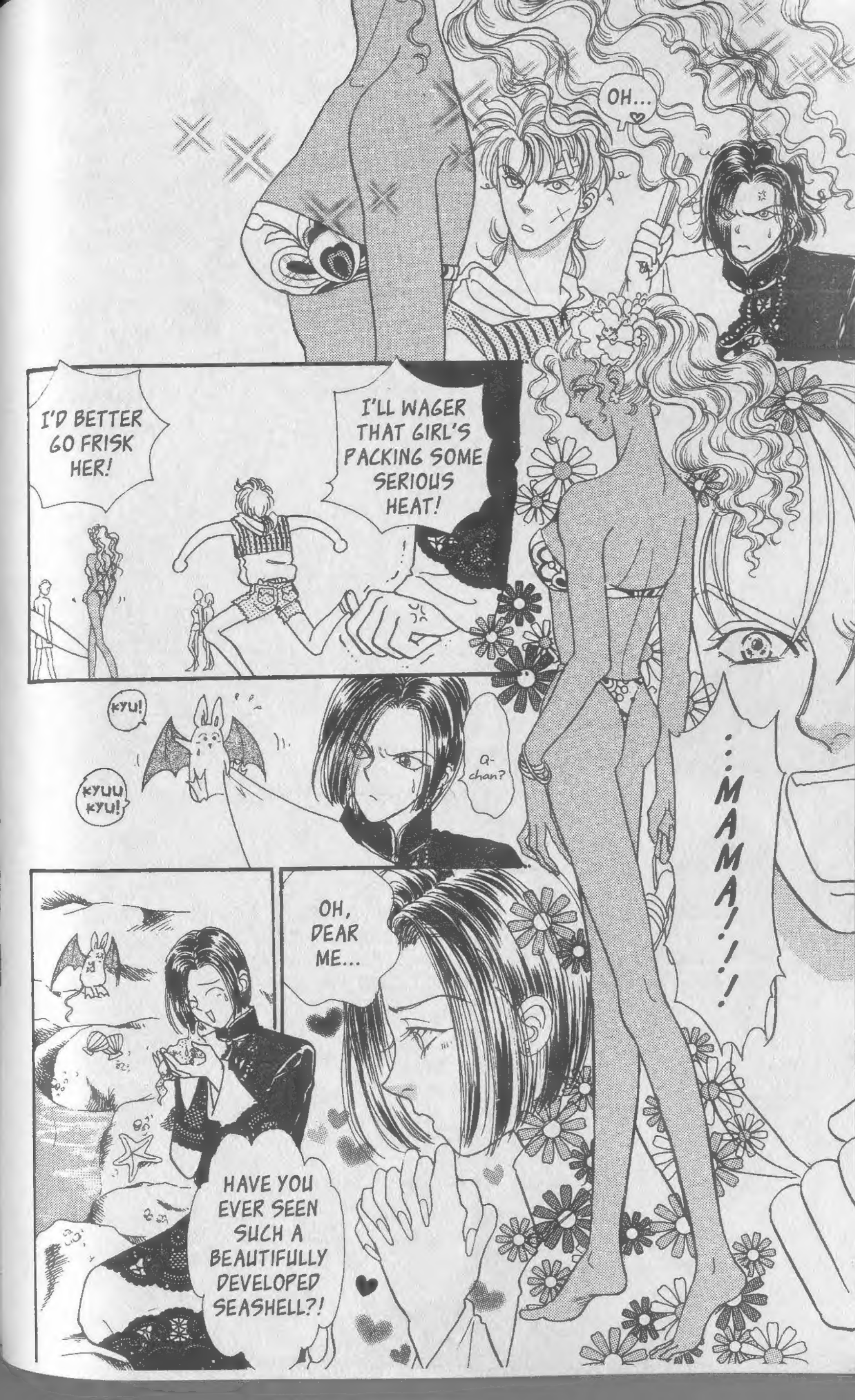
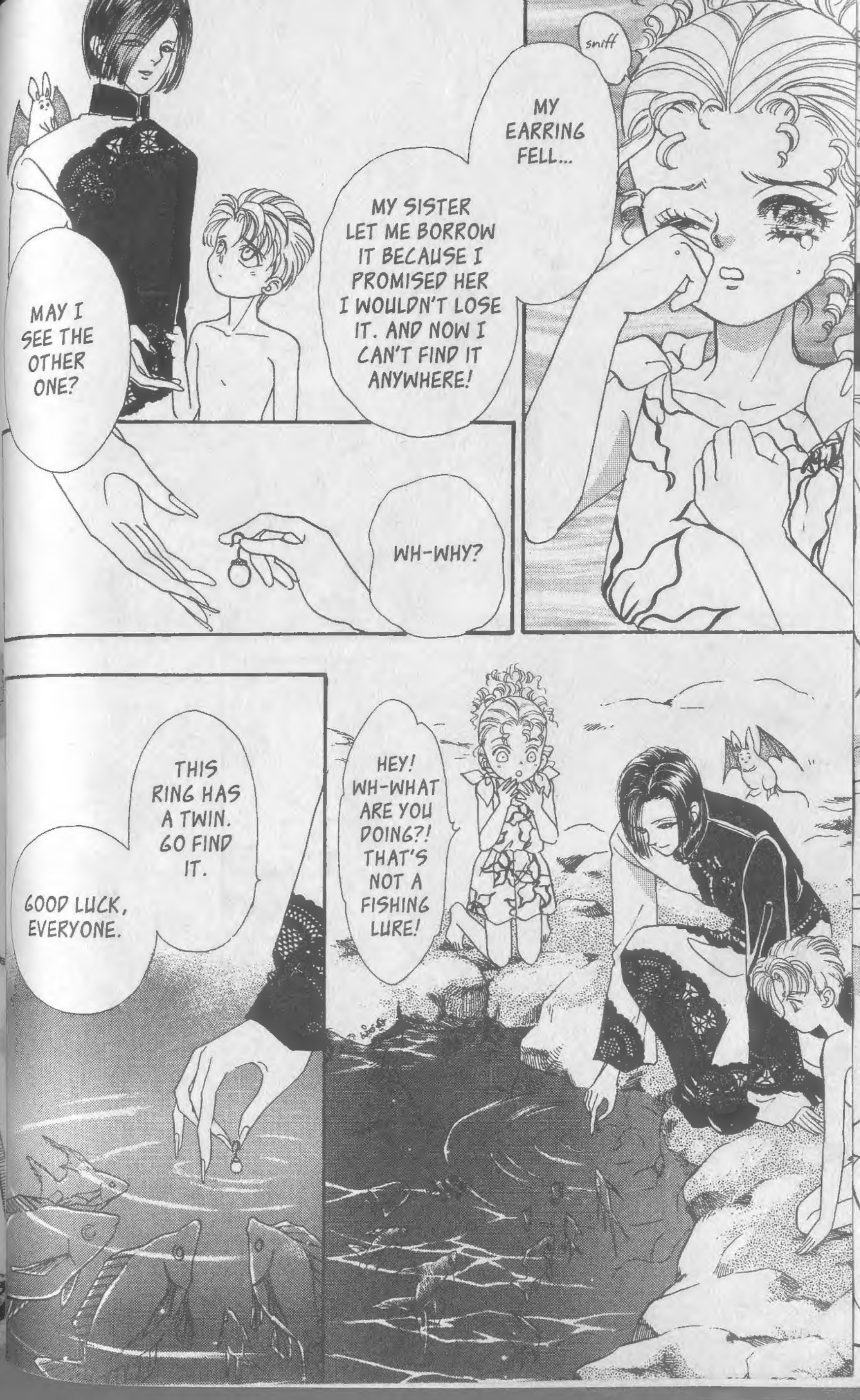

Pet Shop of Horrors
第1話 Deep

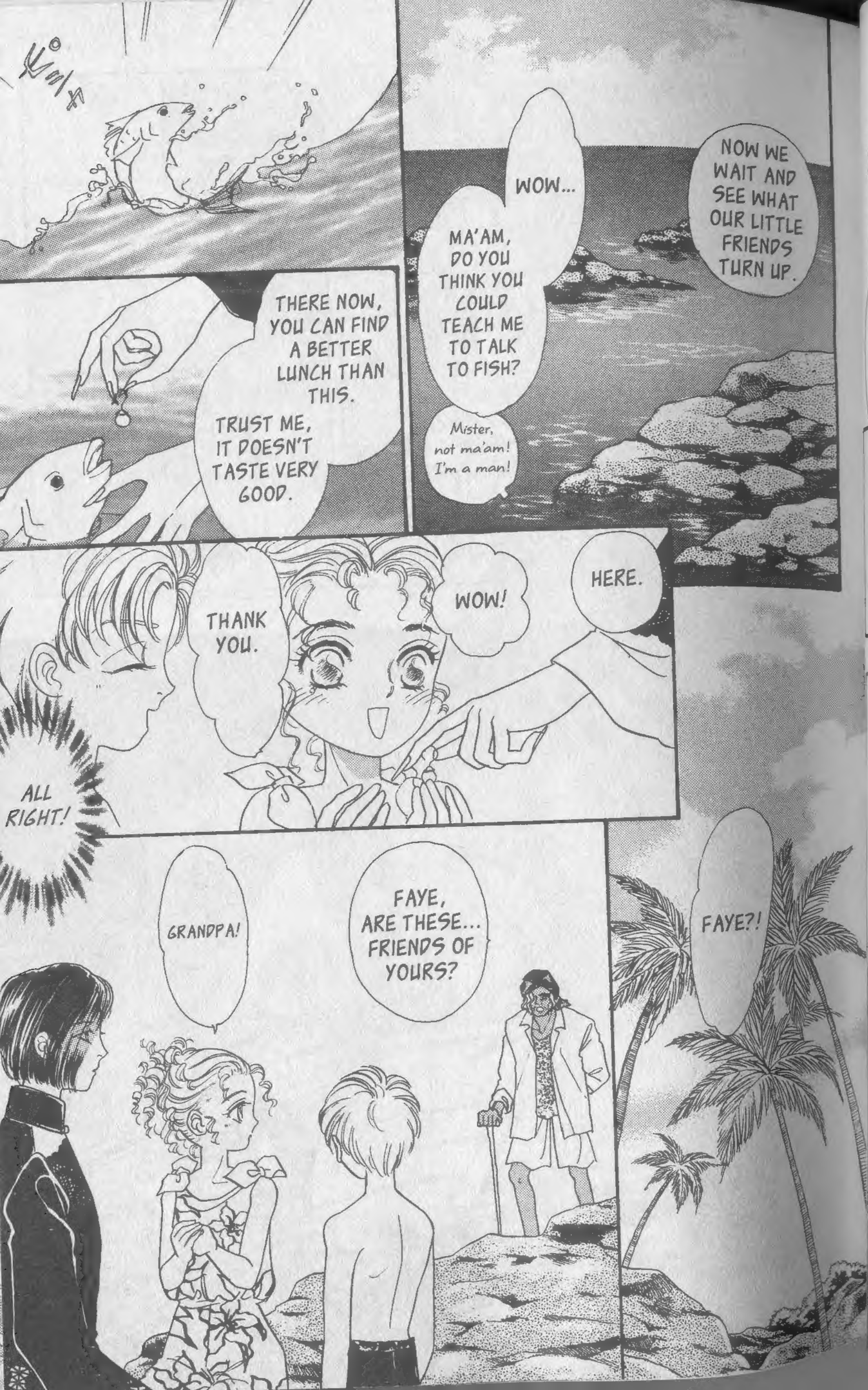

YEEEEES!
THIS IS THE LIFE, CHRIS. NICE RESORT, NICE WEATHER, NICE UMBRELLA DRINKS...
...AND MOST IMPORTANT, A VERY NICE BEACH FULL OF SCANTILY CLAD BABES.
WHY WE COULDN'T FIND A BEACH CLOSER TO HOME IS BEYOND ME. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK WHAT THIS IS COSTING US.
RELAX, IT'S A ONE-WEEK PAID VACATION. NOW GET OUT OF THAT HOT, DUSTY ROBE AND GO PUT YOUR SWIMSUIT ON.

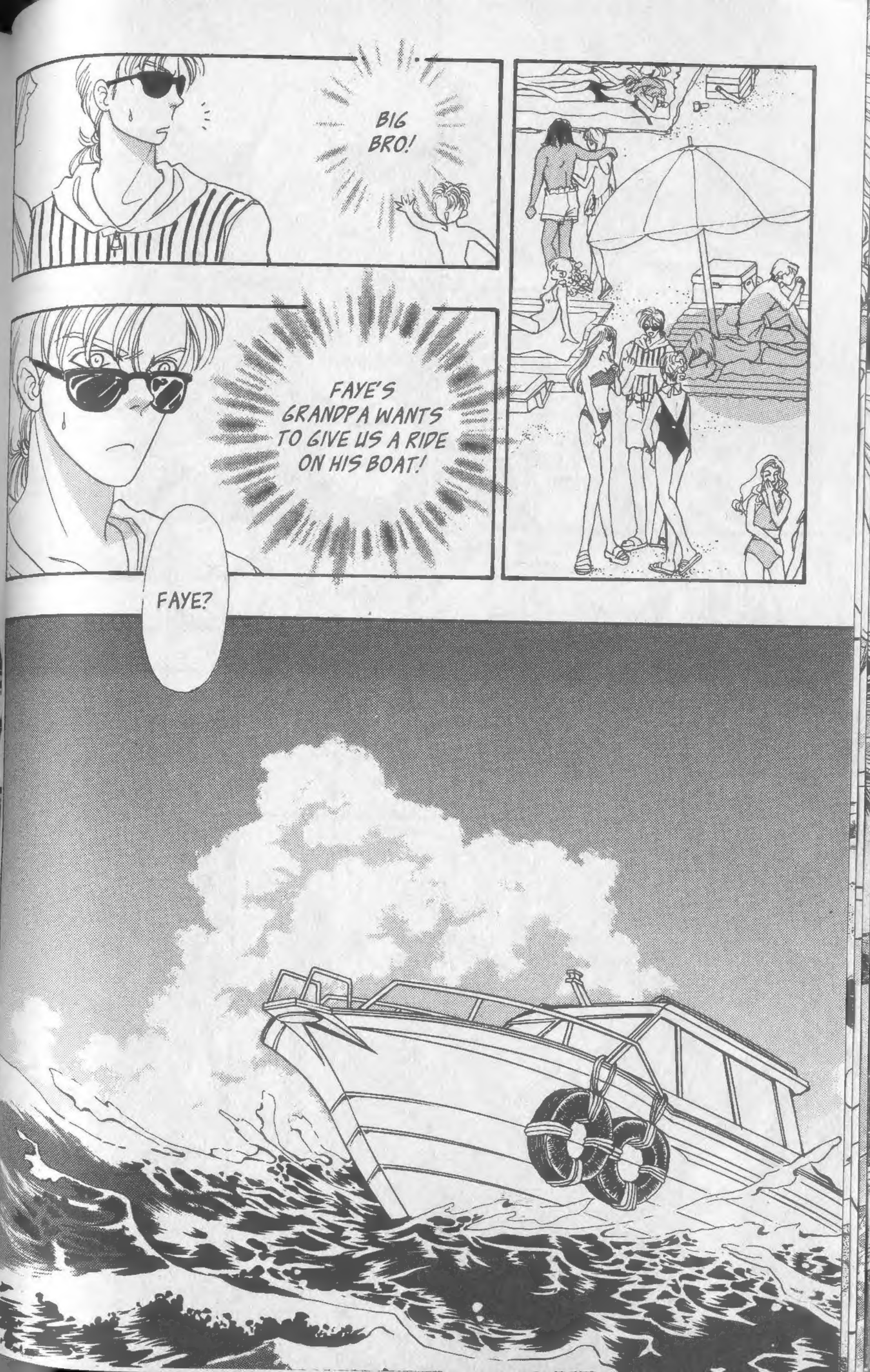

THIS HOT, DUSTY ROBE IS MY SWIMSUIT, DETECTIVE!!!
THERE IS AN OLD CHINESE PROVERB THAT SAYS, "IF YOU CLEAR YOUR MIND OF MUNDANE THOUGHTS" ...
..."EVEN FIRE WILL BE COOL TO YOU."
WHATEVER. HE PROBABLY HAS A FARMER TAN OR SOMETHING.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET YOU TALK ME INTO COMING ON THIS RIDICULOUS VACATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT WASN'T ME, IT WAS CHRIS. HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO WITHOUT YOU. AND IF I KNEW YOU WERE GONNA GRUMBLE LIKE THIS, I WOULD HAVE LEFT YOUR ASS IN CHINATOWN.
THIS FROM THE MAN WHO COMPLAINED THE WHOLE DRIVE BECAUSE WE WOULDN'T STOP AT HOOTERS FOR LUNCH.
SILLY ME. I THOUGHT THAT LETTING COUNT D GET A TASTE OF FRESH AIR AND PIÑA COLADAS BEFORE I SEND HIM TO THE SLAMMER WAS ACTUALLY A NICE THING TO DO!
HERE THEY GO AGAIN...

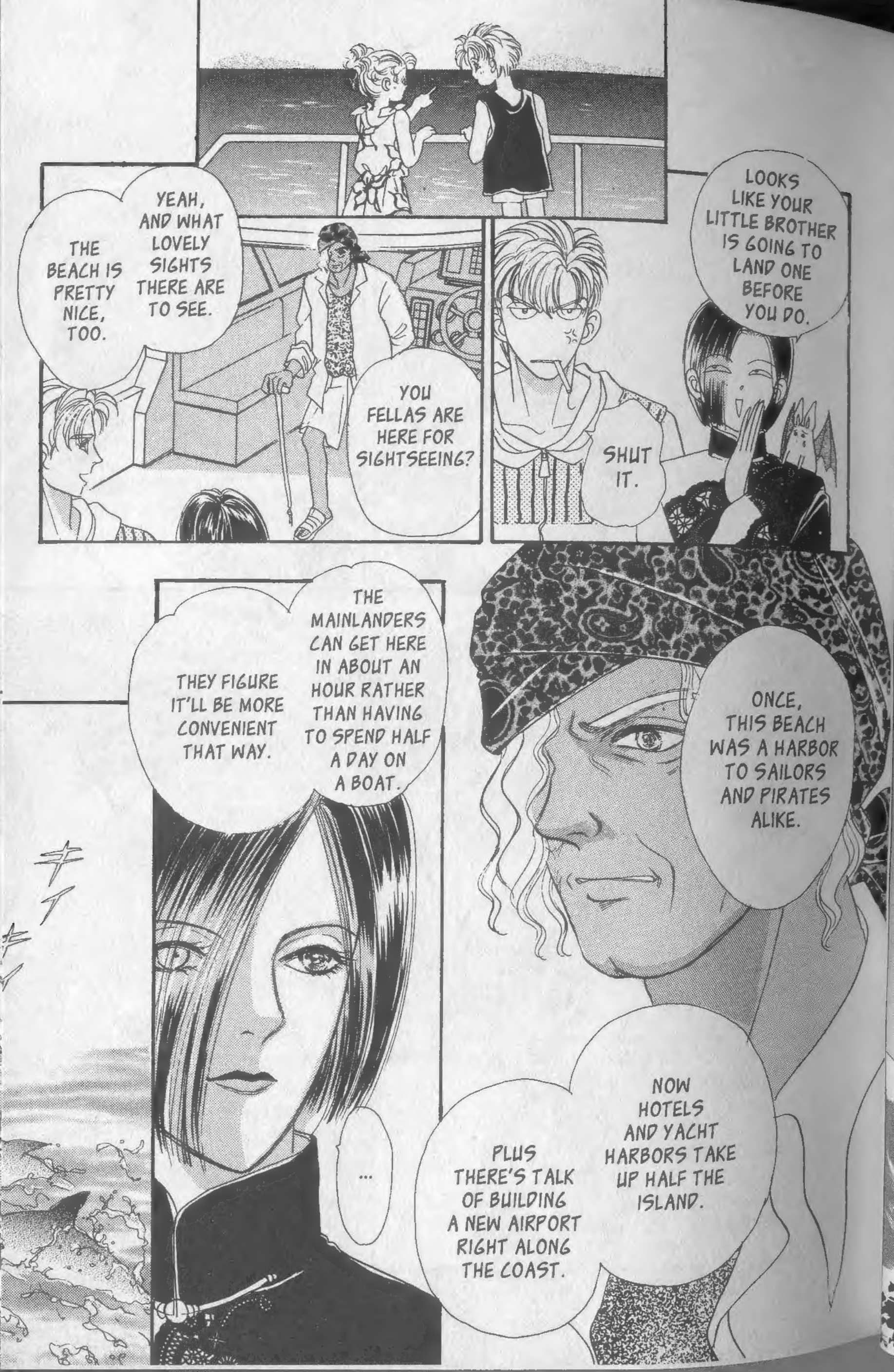

sob
sob
sob
sob
WHAT'S WRONG, CHRIS?
sniff
sob
COUNT...


OH... ♥
I'LL WAGER THAT GIRL'S PACKING SOME SERIOUS HEAT!
I'D BETTER GO FRISK HER!
KYU!
KYUU KYU!
Q-chan?
...MAMA!!!
OH, DEAR ME...
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFULLY DEVELOPED SEASHELL?!


sniff
MY EARRING FELL...
MY SISTER LET ME BORROW IT BECAUSE I PROMISED HER I WOULDN'T LOSE IT. AND NOW I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
MAY I SEE THE OTHER ONE?
WH-WHY?
HEY! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THAT'S NOT A FISHING LURE!
THIS RING HAS A TWIN. GO FIND IT.
GOOD LUCK, EVERYONE.


NOW WE WAIT AND SEE WHAT OUR LITTLE FRIENDS TURN UP.
WOW...
MA'AM, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TEACH ME TO TALK TO FISH?
Mister, not ma'am! I'm a man!
ピョーン
THERE NOW, YOU CAN FIND A BETTER LUNCH THAN THIS.
TRUST ME, IT DOESN'T TASTE VERY GOOD.
HERE.
WOW!
THANK YOU.
ALL RIGHT!
FAYE?!
FAYE, ARE THESE... FRIENDS OF YOURS?
GRANDPA!


BIG BRO!
FAYE'S GRANDPA WANTS TO GIVE US A RIDE ON HIS BOAT!
FAYE?


LOOKS LIKE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IS GOING TO LAND ONE BEFORE YOU DO.
SHUT IT.
YOU FELLAS ARE HERE FOR SIGHTSEEING?
YEAH, AND WHAT LOVELY SIGHTS THERE ARE TO SEE.
THE BEACH IS PRETTY NICE, TOO.
ONCE, THIS BEACH WAS A HARBOR TO SAILORS AND PIRATES ALIKE.
NOW HOTELS AND YACHT HARBORS TAKE UP HALF THE ISLAND.
PLUS THERE'S TALK OF BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT RIGHT ALONG THE COAST.
THE MAINLANDERS CAN GET HERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR RATHER THAN HAVING TO SPEND HALF A DAY ON A BOAT.
THEY FIGURE IT'LL BE MORE CONVENIENT THAT WAY.
...
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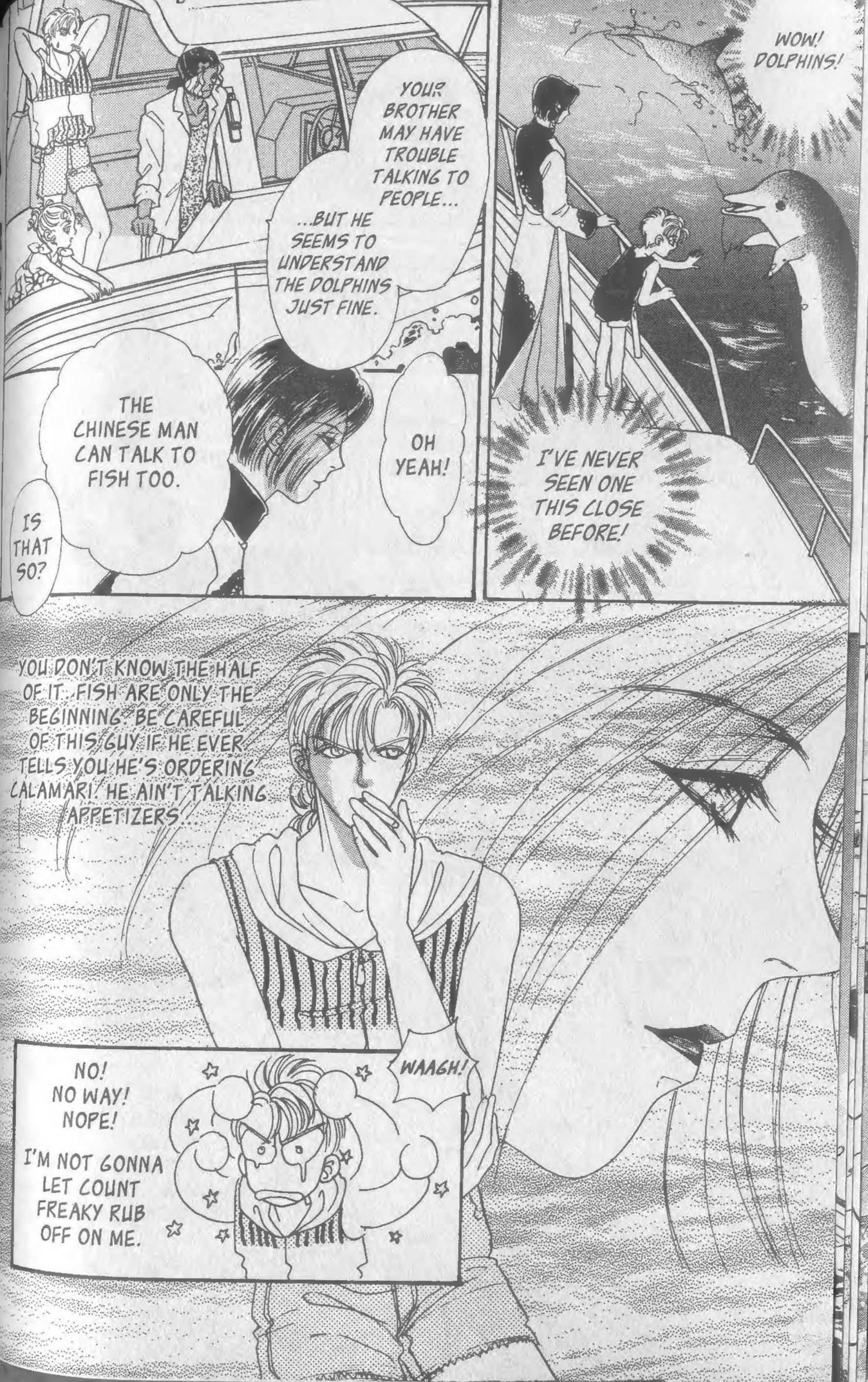
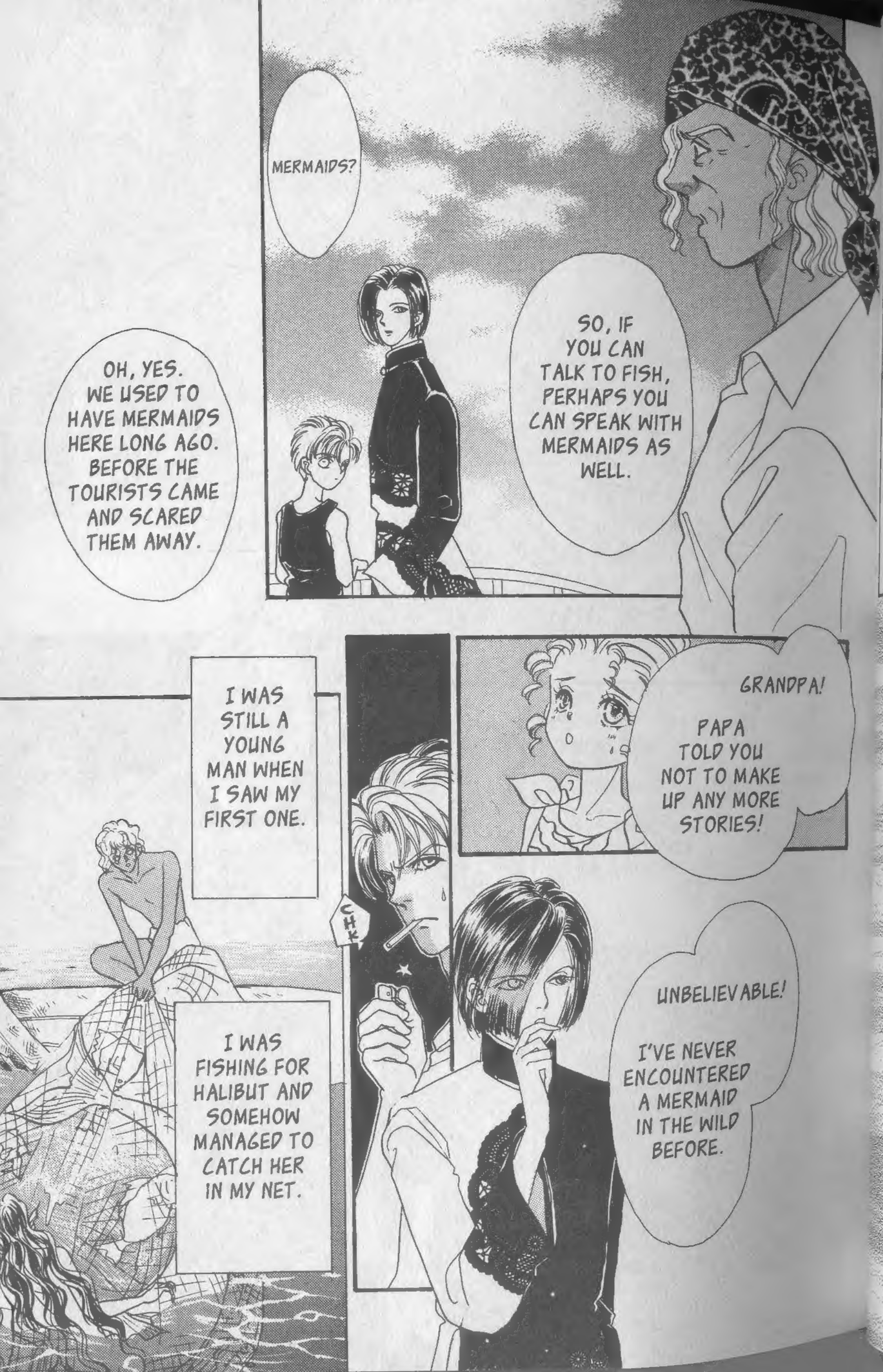
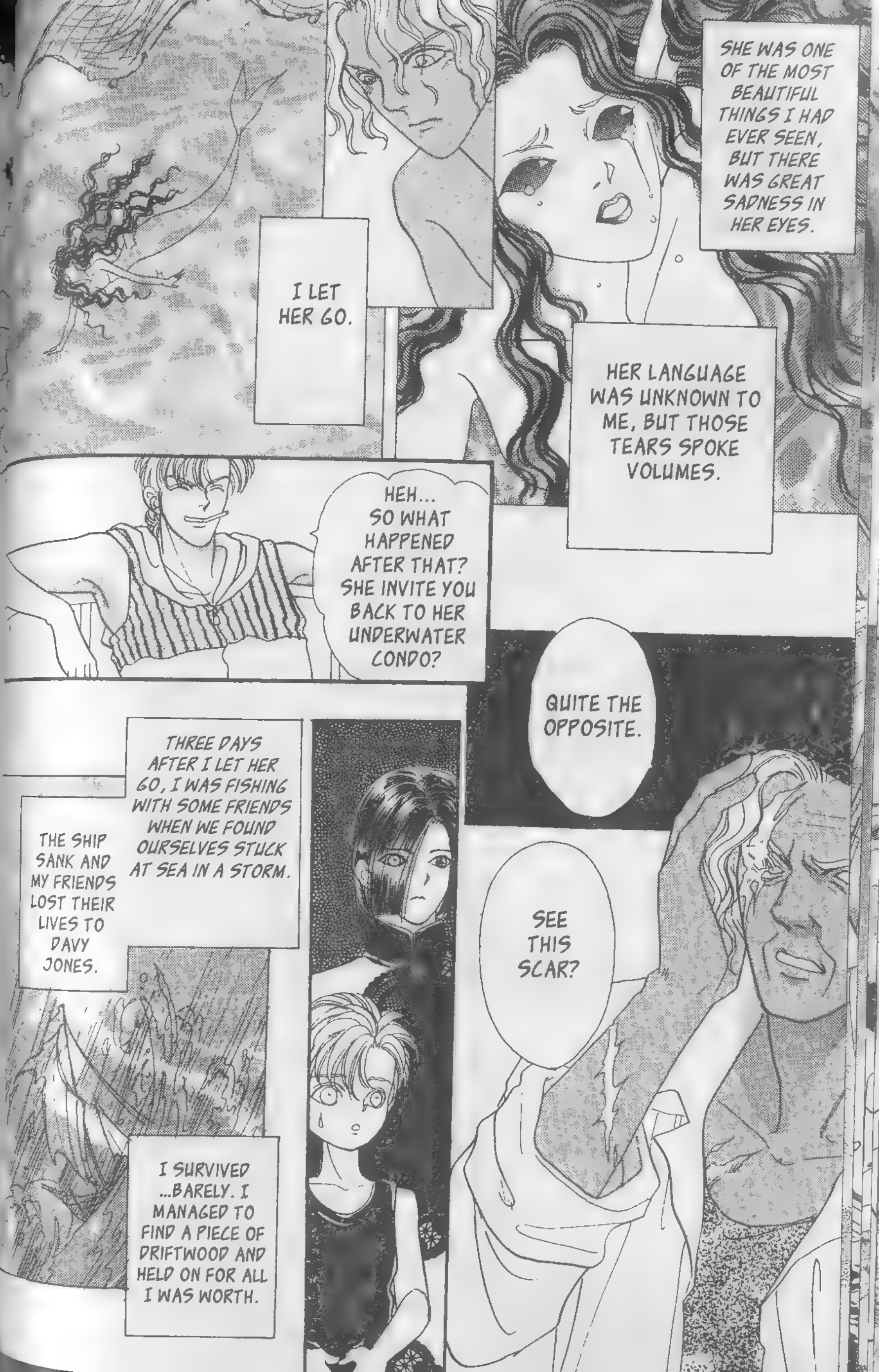
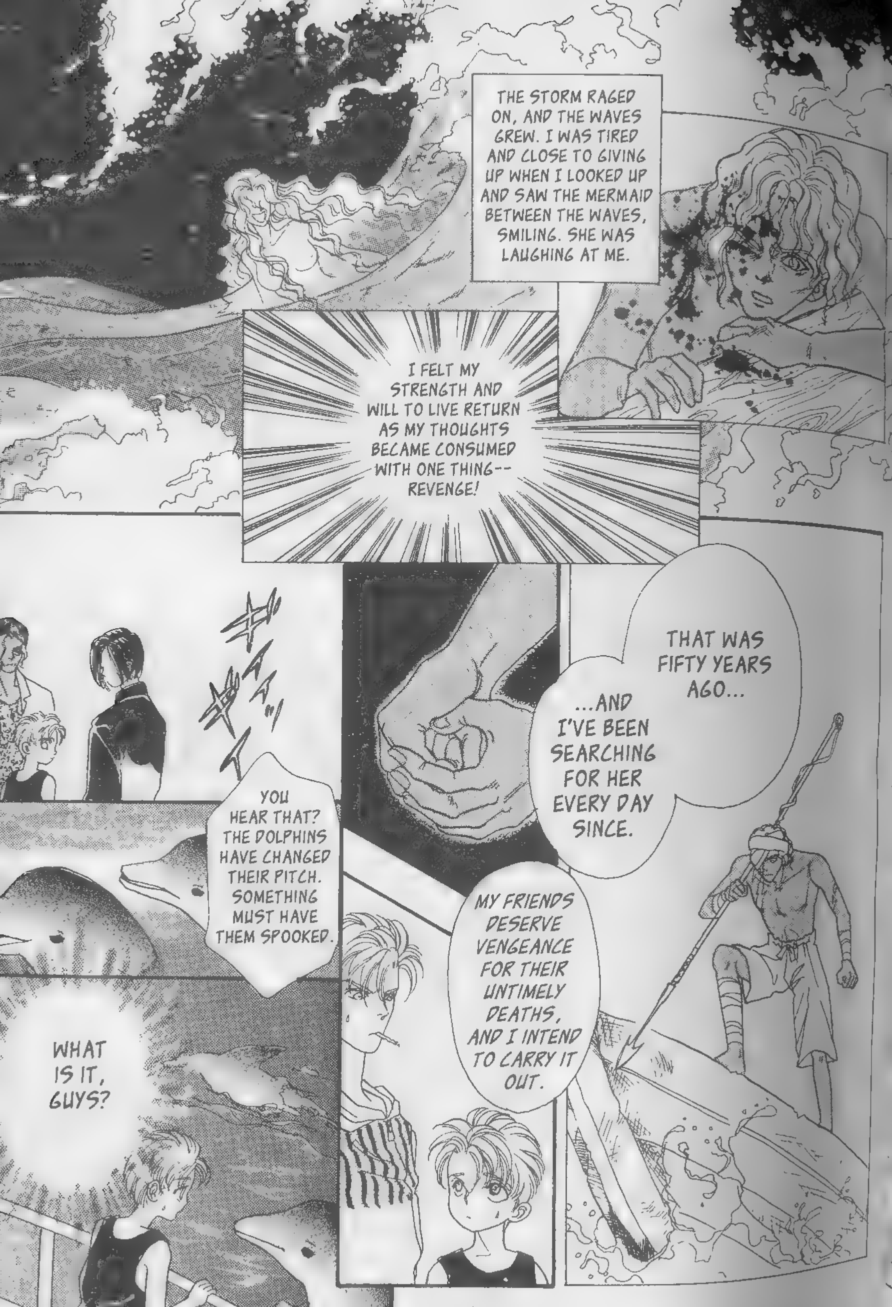
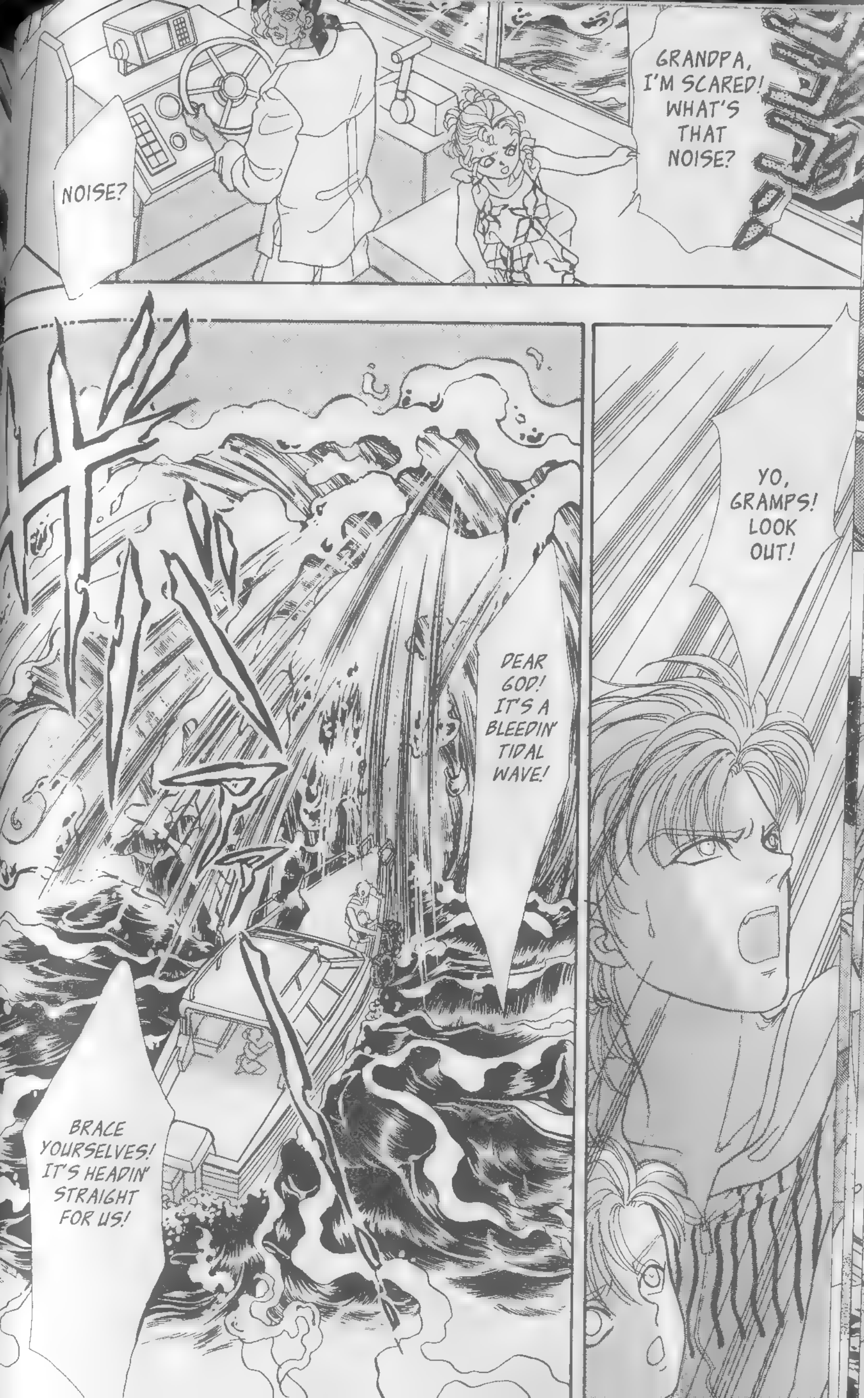
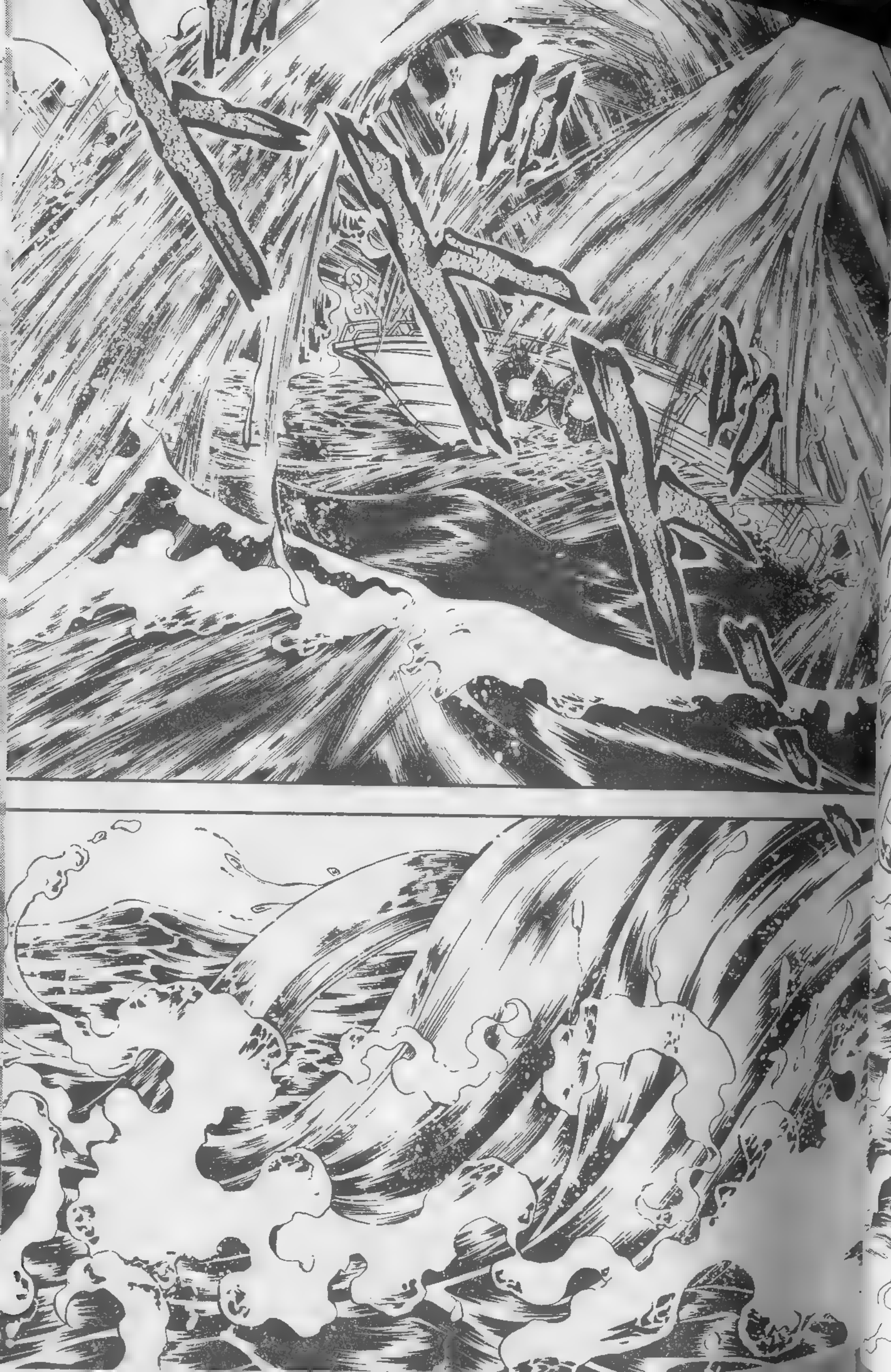

WOW! DOLPHINS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS CLOSE BEFORE!
YOUR BROTHER MAY HAVE TROUBLE TALKING TO PEOPLE...
...BUT HE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THE DOLPHINS JUST FINE.
OH YEAH!
THE CHINESE MAN CAN TALK TO FISH TOO.
IS THAT SO?
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT. FISH ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING. BE CAREFUL OF THIS GUY IF HE EVER TELLS YOU HE'S ORDERING CALAMARI. HE AIN'T TALKING APPETIZERS.
WAAGH!
NO! NO WAY! NOPE!
I'M NOT GONNA LET COUNT FREAKY RUB OFF ON ME.

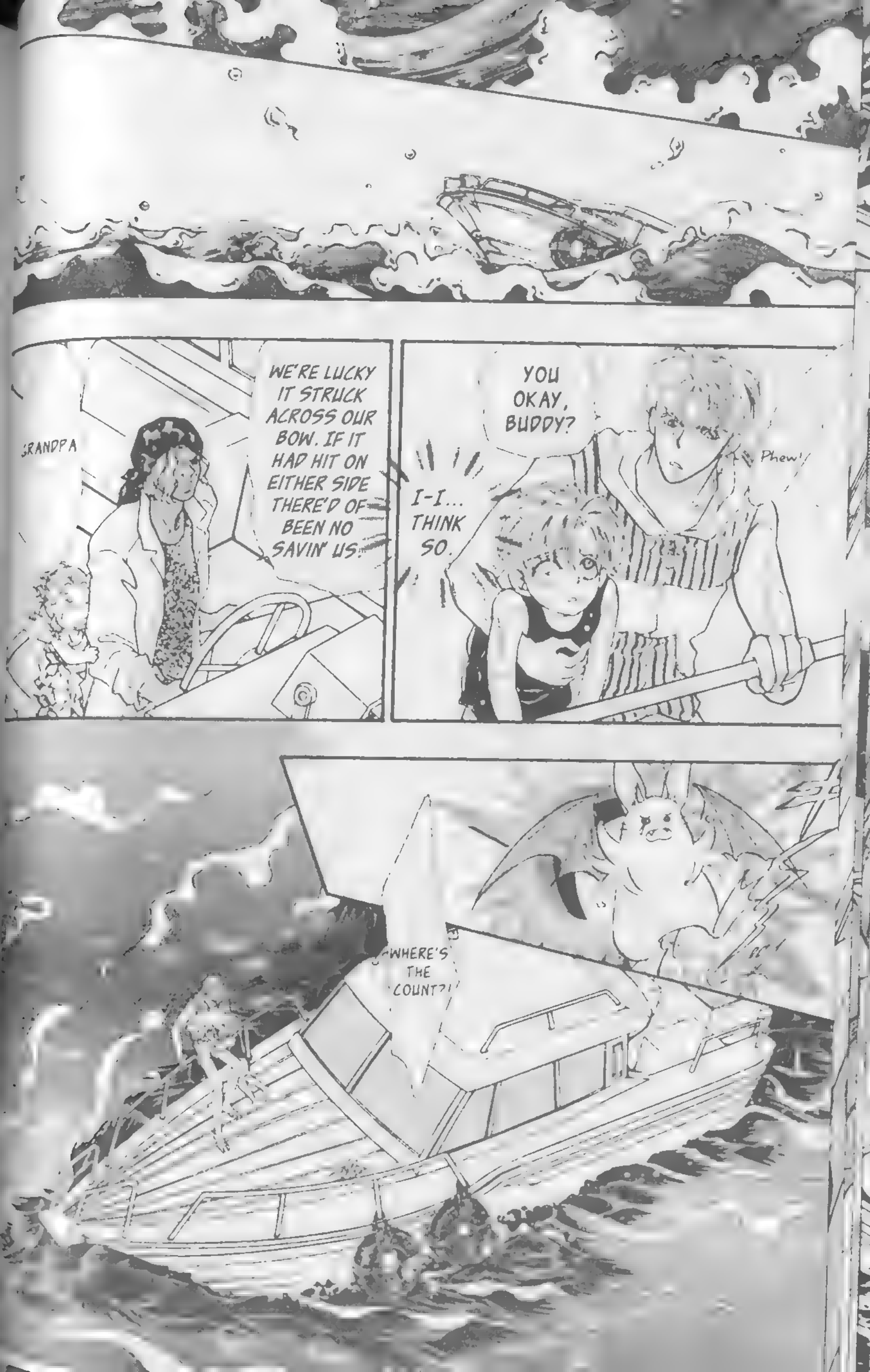

SO, IF YOU CAN TALK TO FISH, PERHAPS YOU CAN SPEAK WITH MERMAIDS AS WELL.
MERMAIDS?
OH, YES. WE USED TO HAVE MERMAIDS HERE LONG AGO. BEFORE THE TOURISTS CAME AND SCARED THEM AWAY.
GRANDPA!
PAPA TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE UP ANY MORE STORIES!
CHK
UNBELIEVABLE!
I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED A MERMAID IN THE WILD BEFORE.
I WAS STILL A YOUNG MAN WHEN I SAW MY FIRST ONE.
I WAS FISHING FOR HALIBUT AND SOMEHOW MANAGED TO CATCH HER IN MY NET.

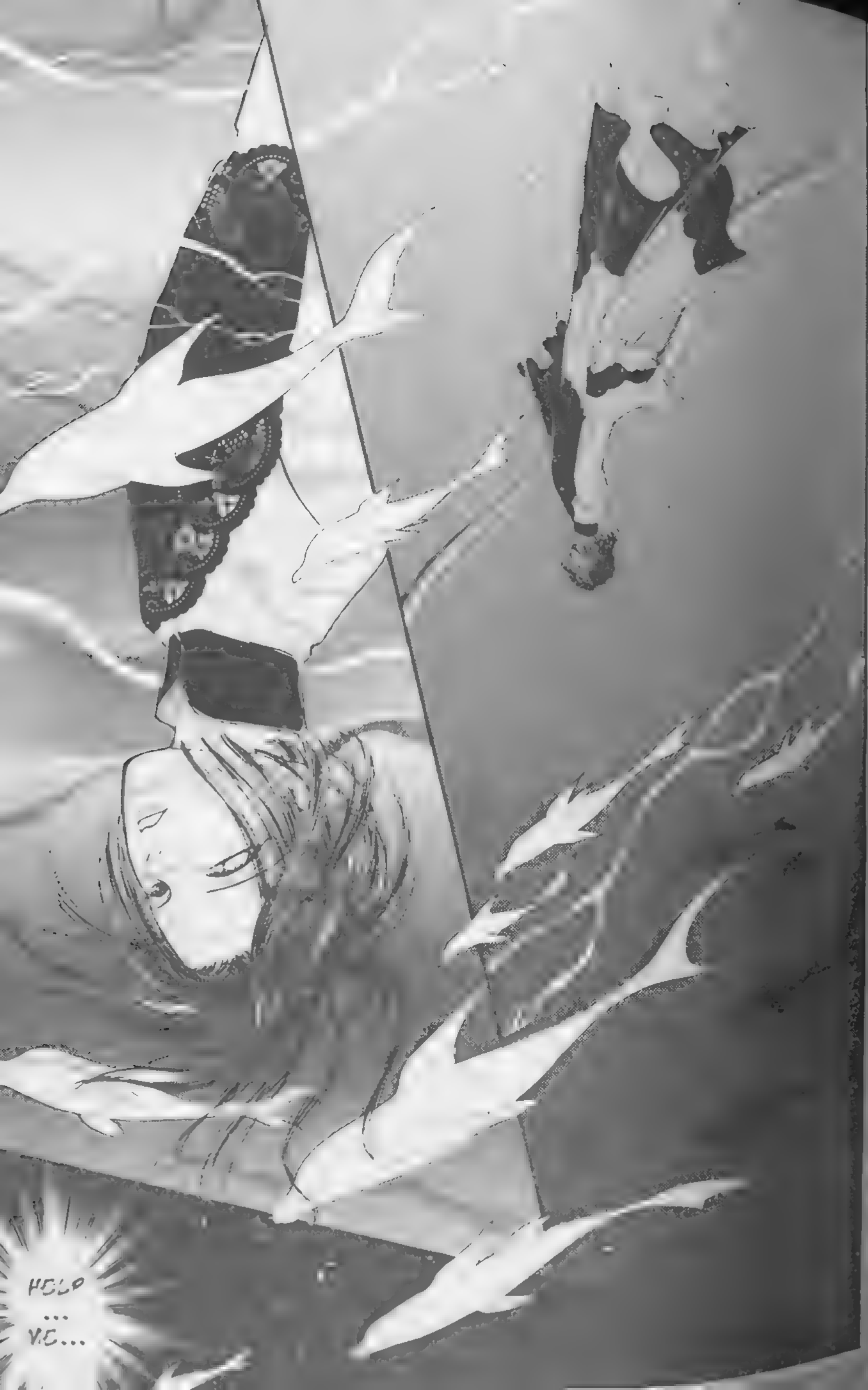

SHE WAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS I HAD EVER SEEN, BUT THERE WAS GREAT SADNESS IN HER EYES.
HER LANGUAGE WAS UNKNOWN TO ME, BUT THOSE TEARS SPOKE VOLUMES.
I LET HER GO.
HEH... SO WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT? SHE INVITE YOU BACK TO HER UNDERWATER CONDO?
QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
SEE THIS SCAR?
THREE DAYS AFTER I LET HER GO, I WAS FISHING WITH SOME FRIENDS WHEN WE FOUND OURSELVES STUCK AT SEA IN A STORM.
THE SHIP SANK AND MY FRIENDS LOST THEIR LIVES TO DAVY JONES.
I SURVIVED ...BARELY. I MANAGED TO FIND A PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD AND HELD ON FOR ALL I WAS WORTH.

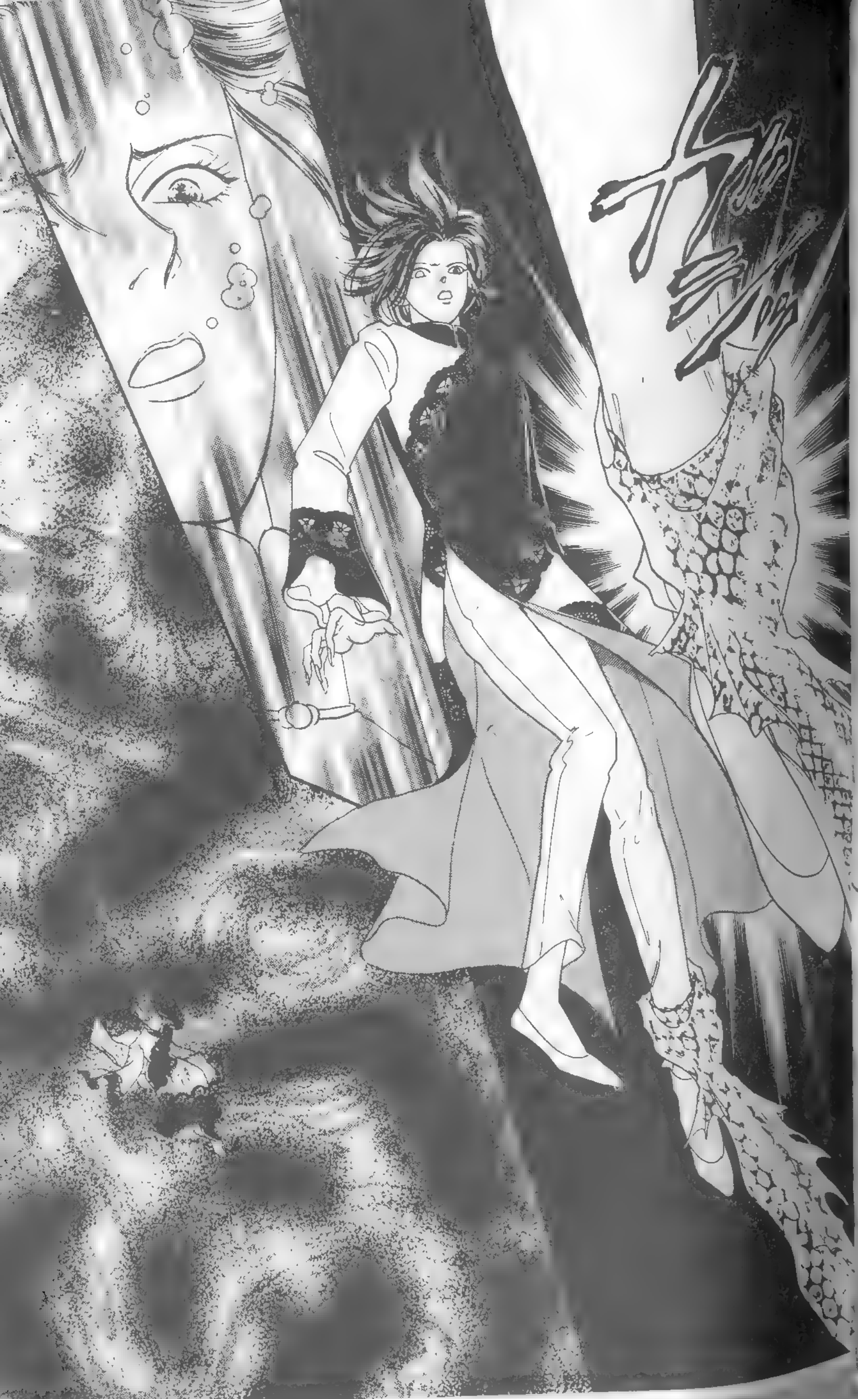

THE STORM RAGED ON, AND THE WAVES GREW. I WAS TIRED AND CLOSE TO GIVING UP WHEN I LOOKED UP AND SAW THE MERMAID BETWEEN THE WAVES, SMILING. SHE WAS LAUGHING AT ME.
I FELT MY STRENGTH AND WILL TO LIVE RETURN AS MY THOUGHTS BECAME CONSUMED WITH ONE THING--REVENGE!
THAT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO...
...AND I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER EVERY DAY SINCE.
MY FRIENDS DESERVE VENGEANCE FOR THEIR UNTIMELY DEATHS, AND I INTEND TO CARRY IT OUT.
YOU HEAR THAT? THE DOLPHINS HAVE CHANGED THEIR PITCH. SOMETHING MUST HAVE THEM SPOOKED.
WHAT IS IT, GUYS?

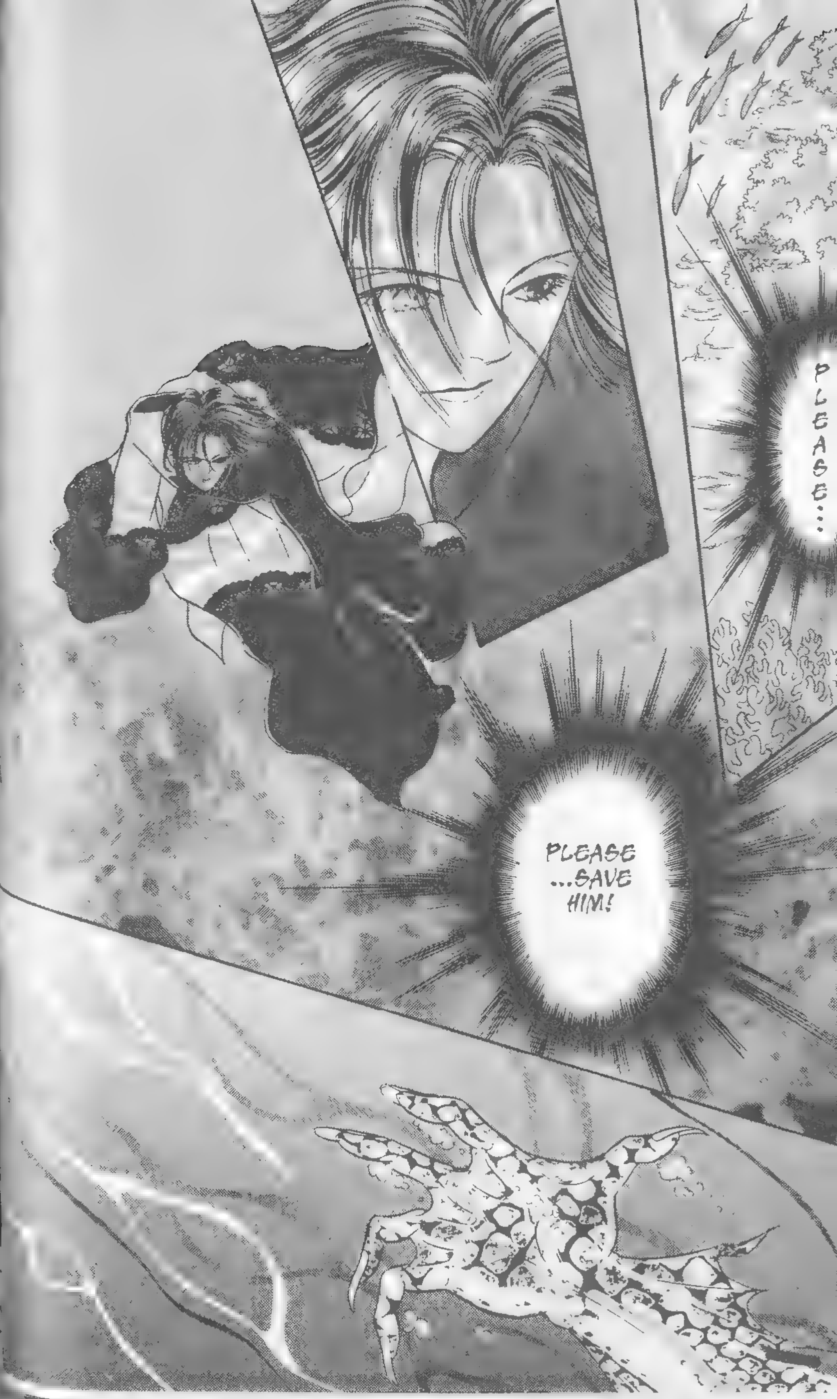

GRANDPA, I'M SCARED! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
NOISE?
YO, GRAMPS! LOOK OUT!
DEAR GOD! IT'S A BLEEDIN' TIDAL WAVE!
BRACE YOURSELVES! IT'S HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR US!

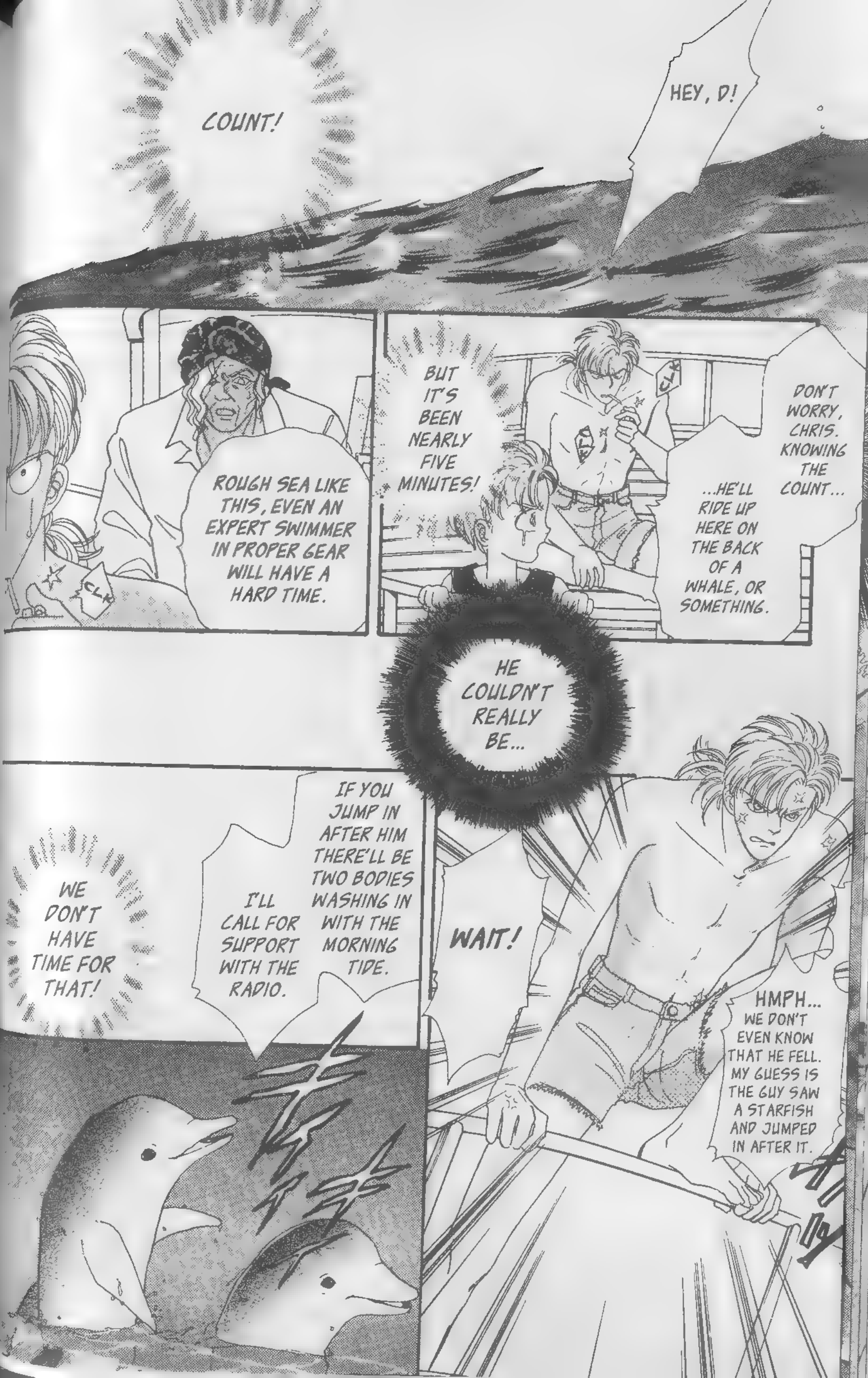


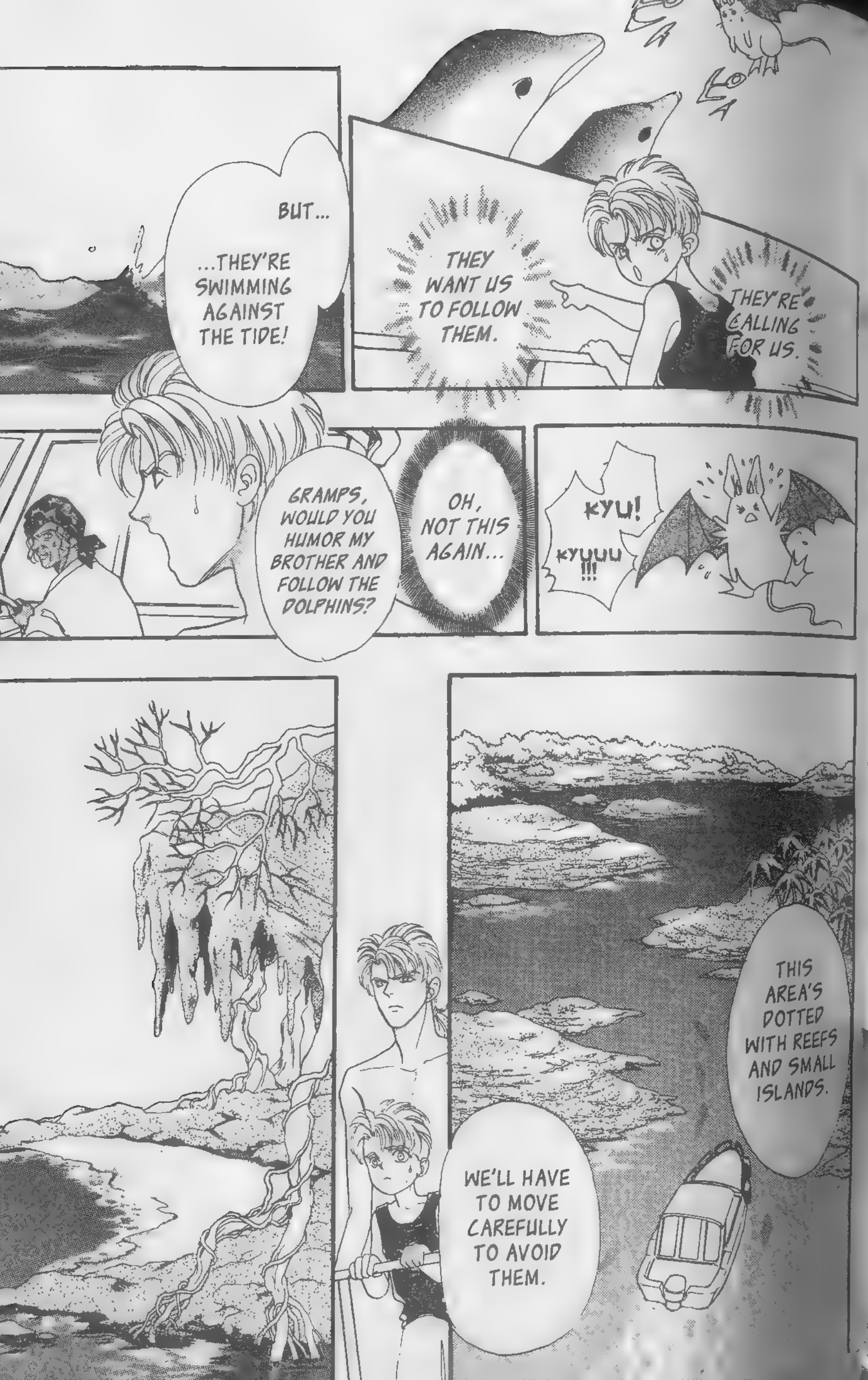

YOU OKAY, BUDDY?
Phew!
I-I... THINK SO.
WE'RE LUCKY IT STRUCK ACROSS OUR BOW. IF IT HAD HIT ON EITHER SIDE THERE'D OF BEEN NO SAVIN' US.
GRANDPA
WHERE'S THE COUNT?!

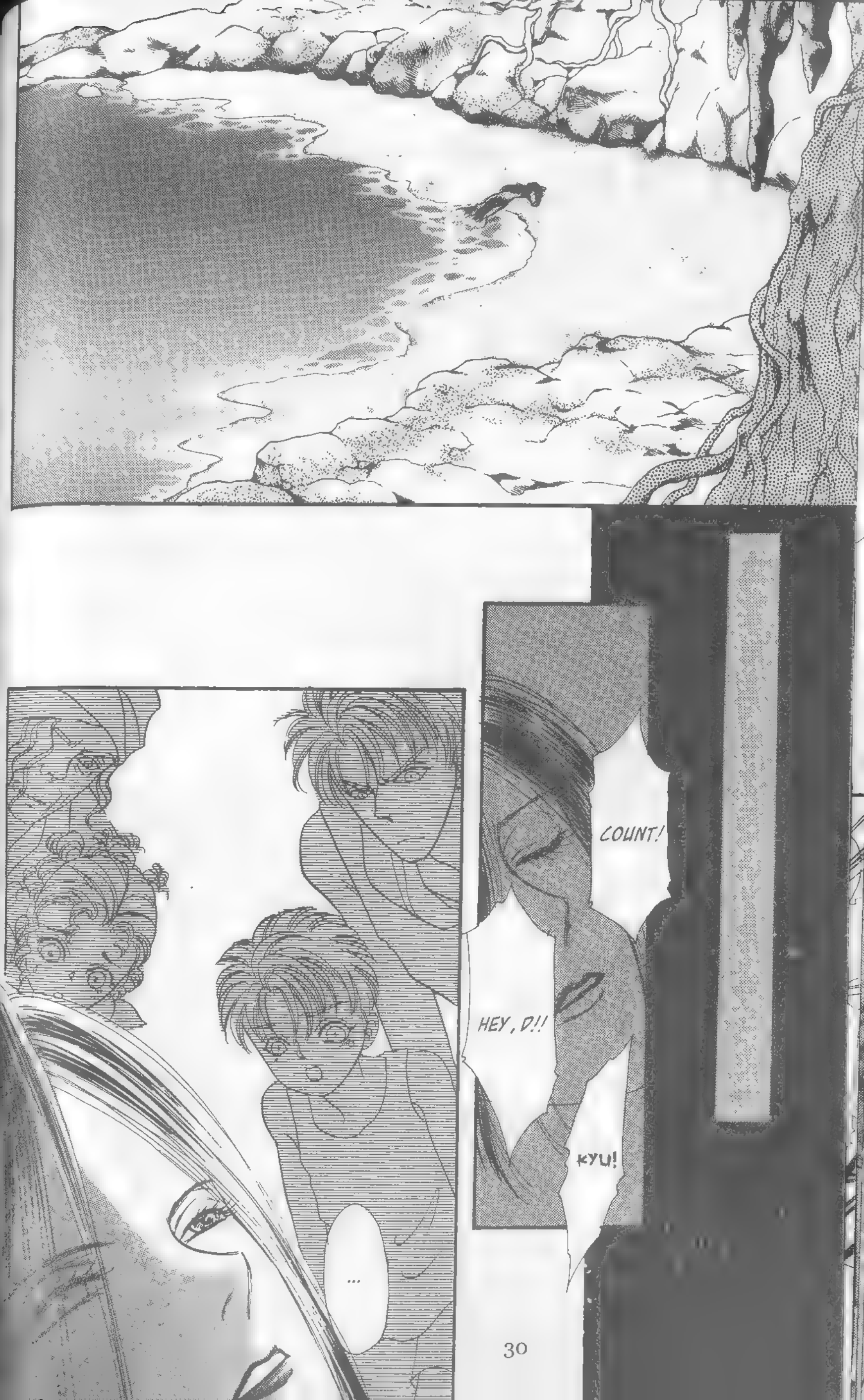

HELP ... ME...

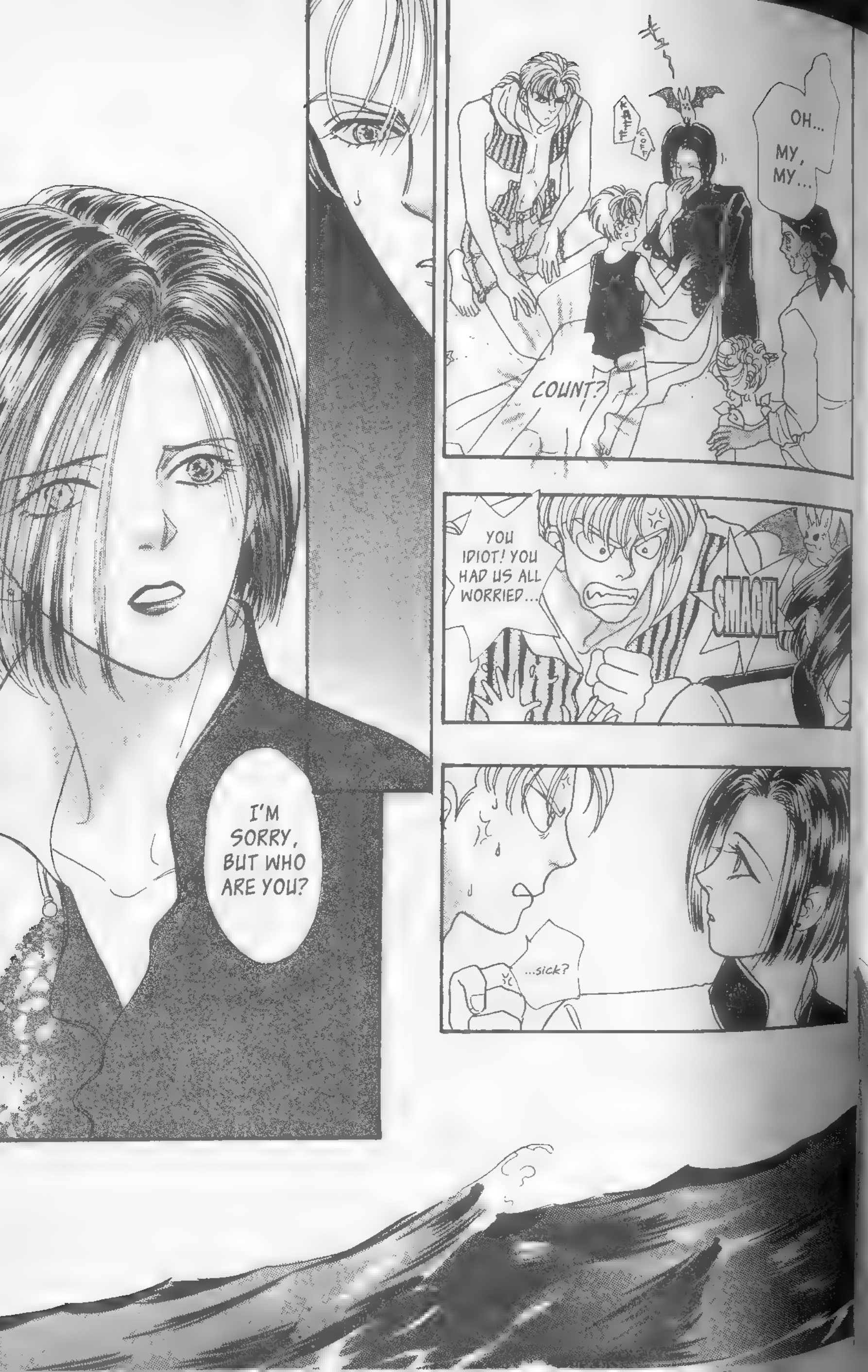


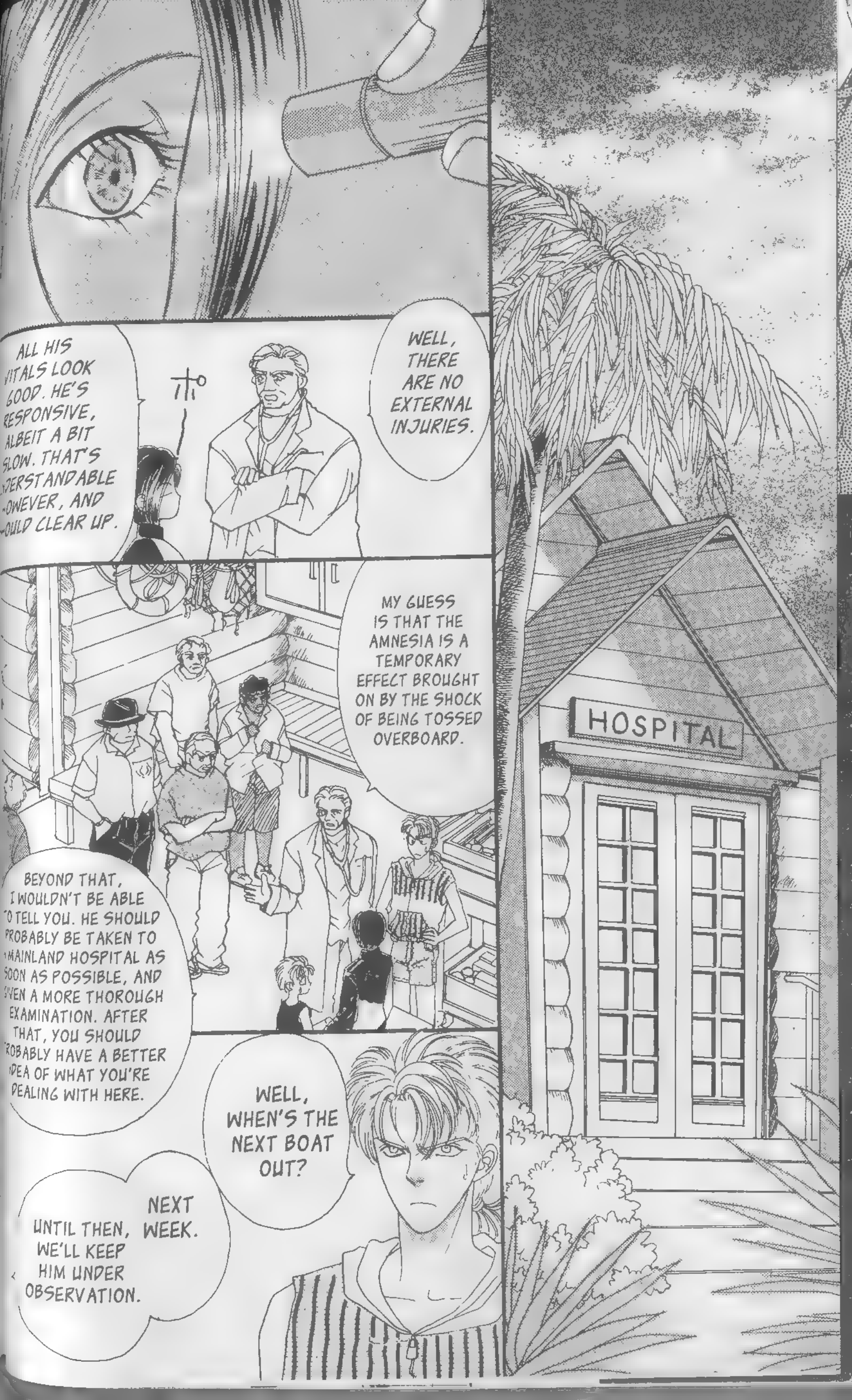

PLEASE...
PLEASE ...SAVE HIM!

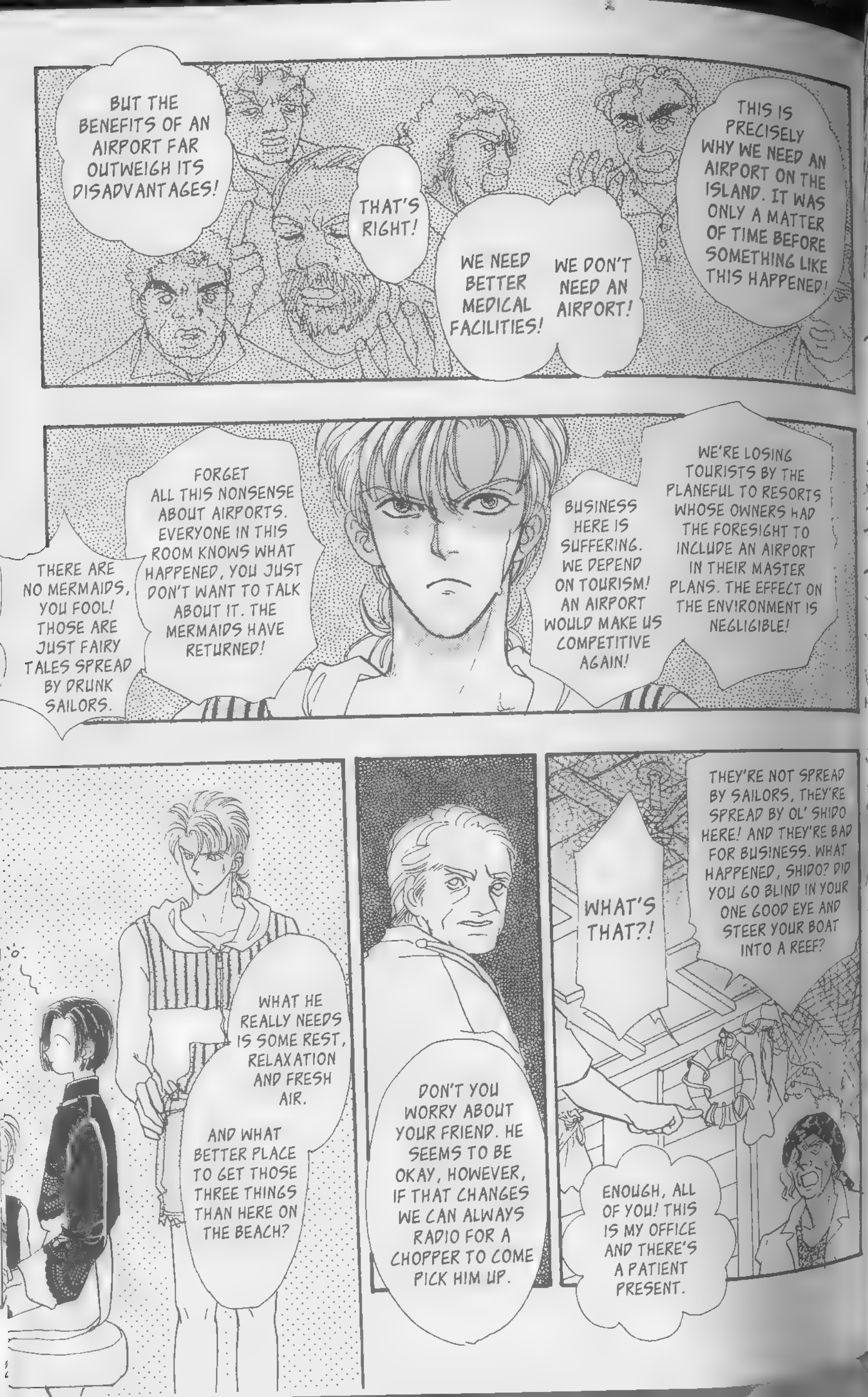

HEY, D!
COUNT!
DON'T WORRY, CHRIS. KNOWING THE COUNT...
...HE'LL RIDE UP HERE ON THE BACK OF A WHALE, OR SOMETHING.
BUT IT'S BEEN NEARLY FIVE MINUTES!
CLK
ROUGH SEA LIKE THIS, EVEN AN EXPERT SWIMMER IN PROPER GEAR WILL HAVE A HARD TIME.
CLK
HE COULDN'T REALLY BE...
HMPH... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT HE FELL. MY GUESS IS THE GUY SAW A STARFISH AND JUMPED IN AFTER IT.
WAIT!
IF YOU JUMP IN AFTER HIM THERE'LL BE TWO BODIES WASHING IN WITH THE MORNING TIDE.
I'LL CALL FOR SUPPORT WITH THE RADIO.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!

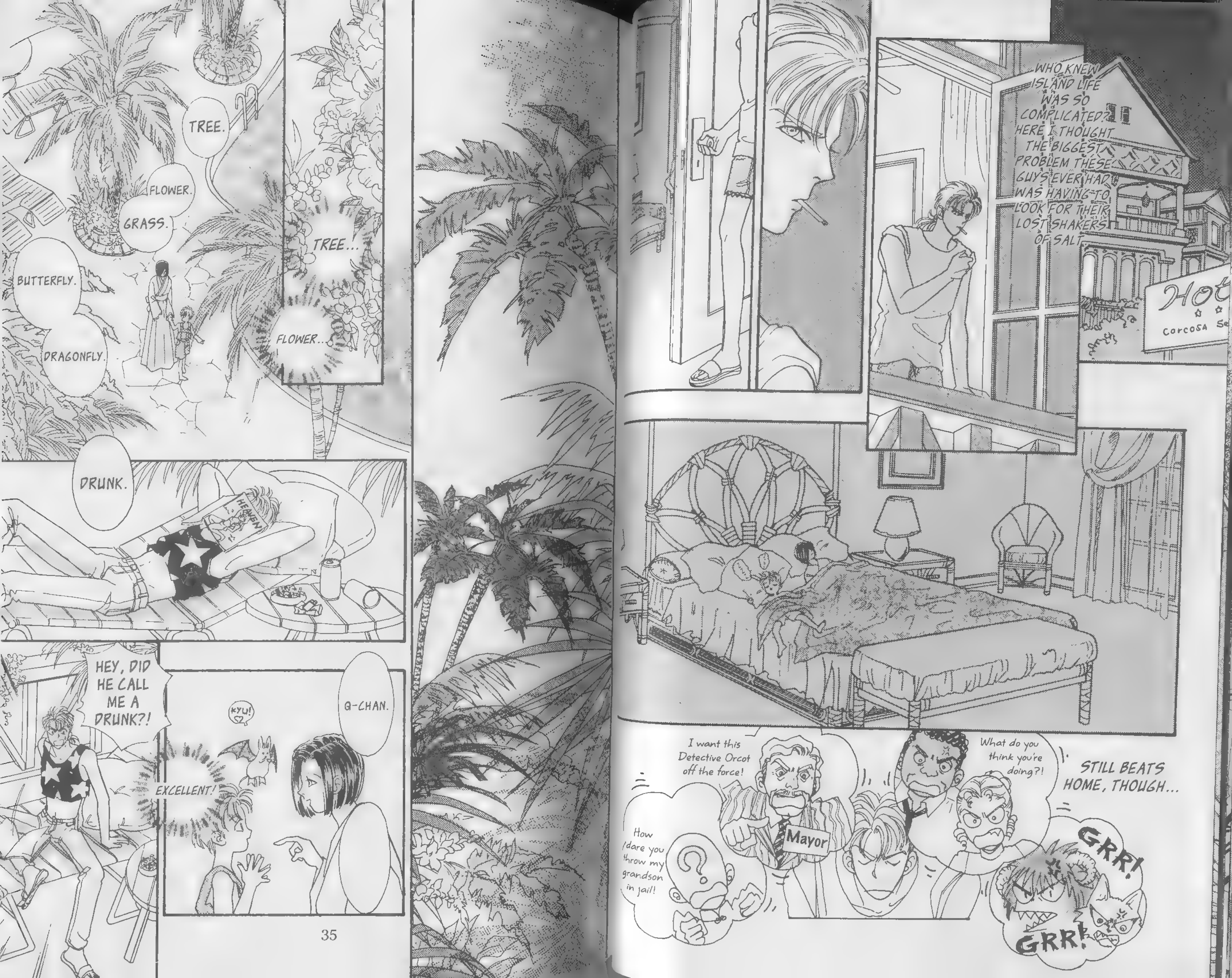

THEY'RE CALLING FOR US.
THEY WANT US TO FOLLOW THEM.
BUT...
...THEY'RE SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE!
KYU!
KYUUU!!!
OH, NOT THIS AGAIN...
GRAMPS, WOULD YOU HUMOR MY BROTHER AND FOLLOW THE DOLPHINS?
THIS AREA'S DOTTED WITH REEFS AND SMALL ISLANDS.
WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE CAREFULLY TO AVOID THEM.

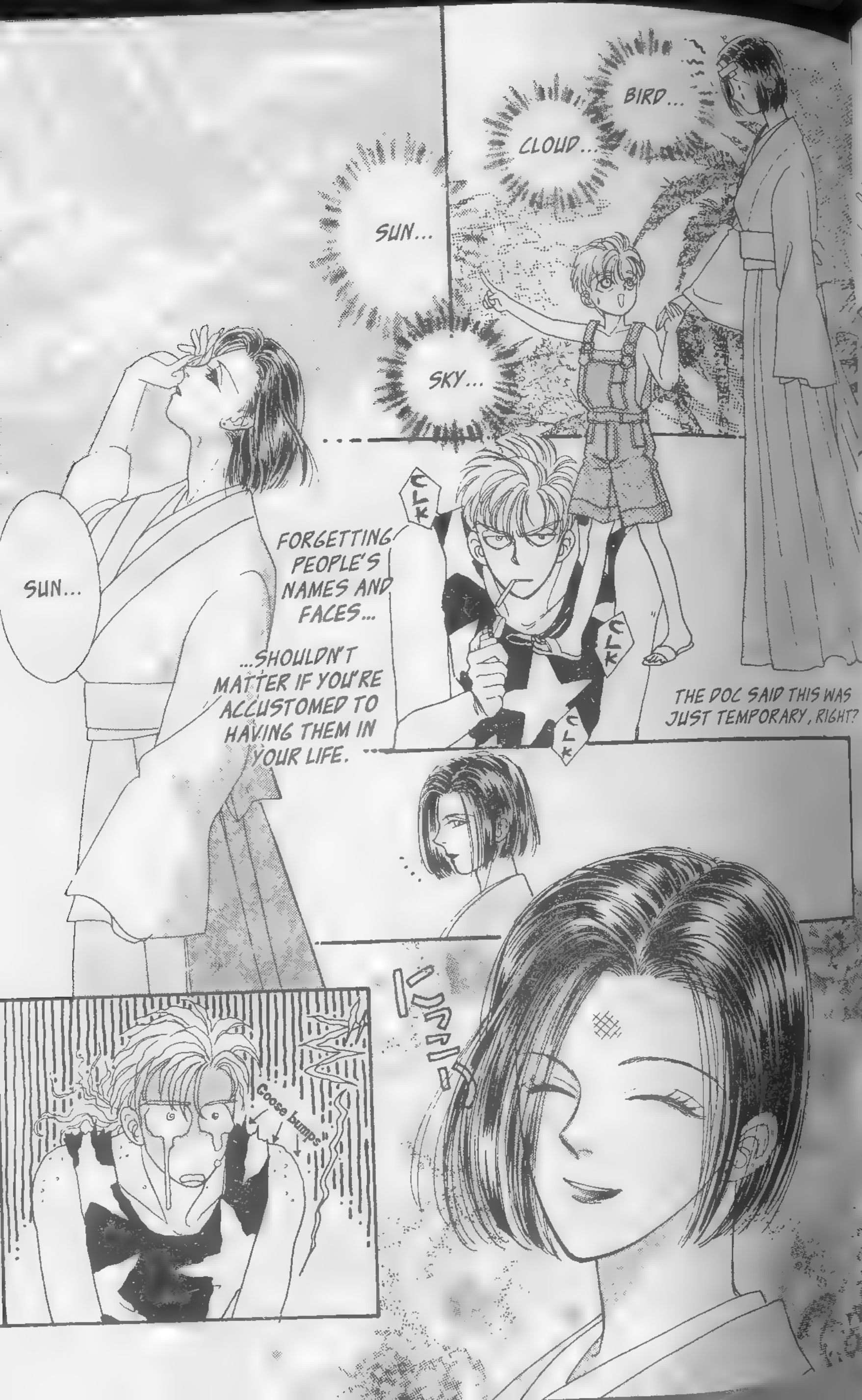

COUNT!
HEY, D!!
KYU!
...

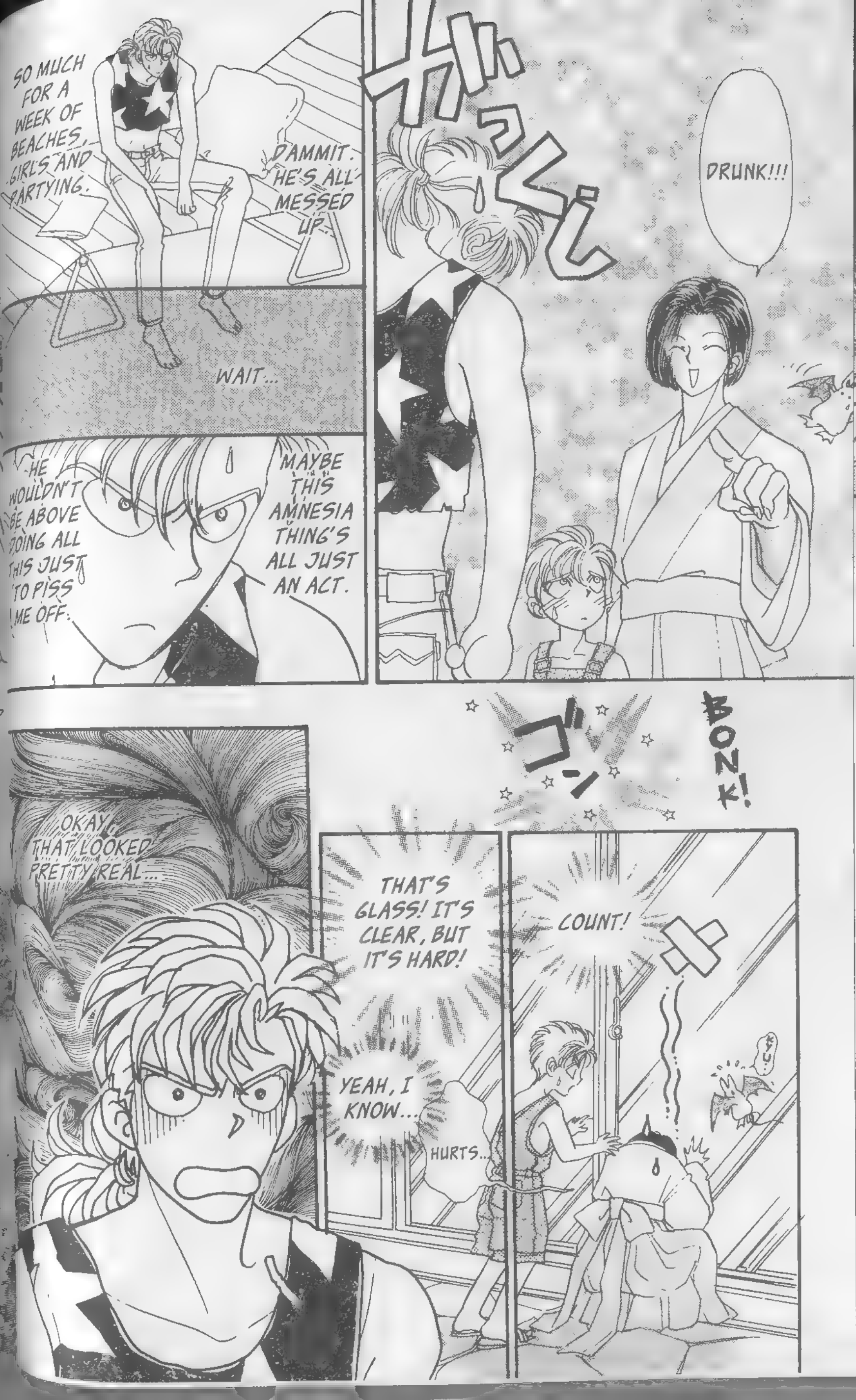

OH... MY, MY...
KAFF
COFF
COUNT?
YOU IDIOT! YOU HAD US ALL WORRIED...
SMACK!
...sick?
I'M SORRY, BUT WHO ARE YOU?

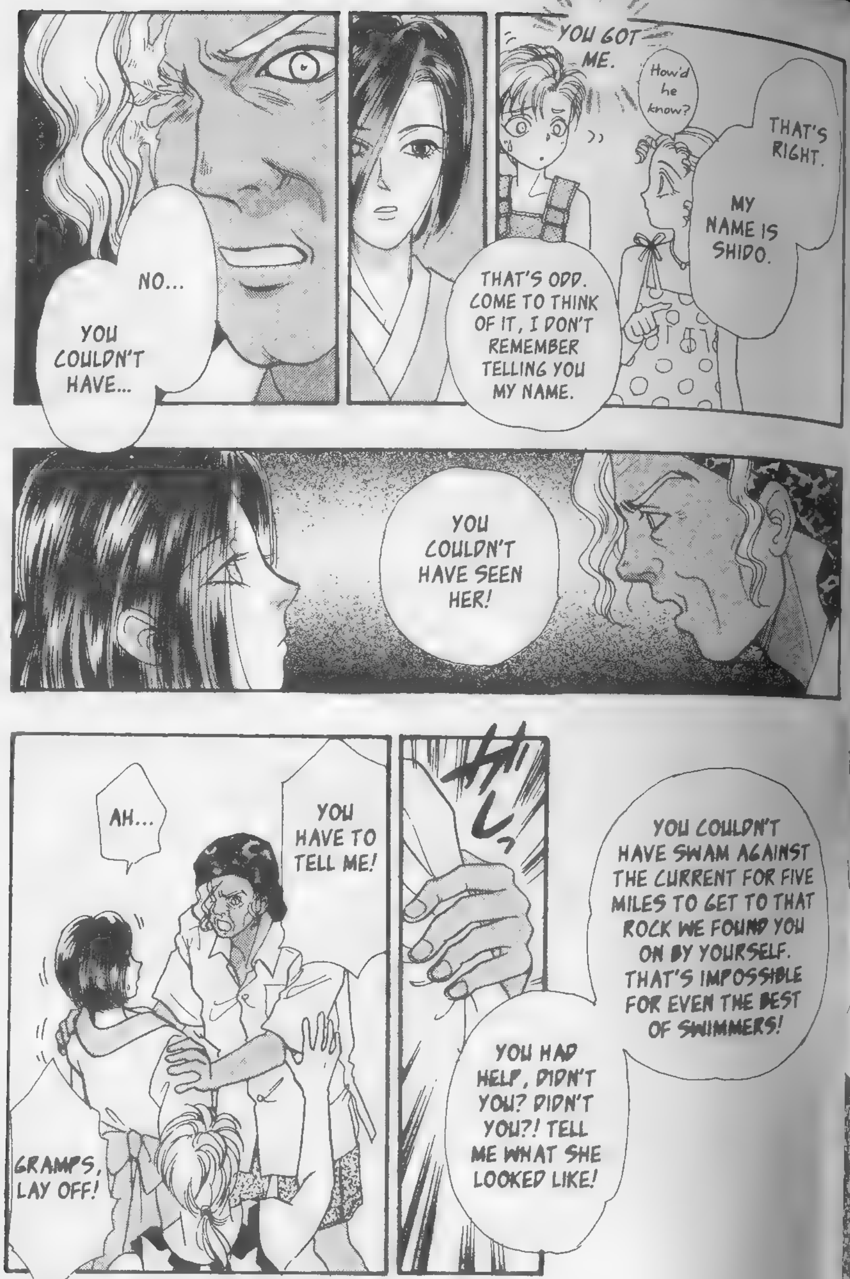

WELL, THERE ARE NO EXTERNAL INJURIES.
ALL HIS ITALS LOOK GOOD. HE'S ESPONSIVE, ALBEIT A BIT SLOW. THAT'S DERSTANDABLE OWEVER, AND OULD CLEAR UP.
ポ
MY GUESS IS THAT THE AMNESIA IS A TEMPORARY EFFECT BROUGHT ON BY THE SHOCK OF BEING TOSSED OVERBOARD.
HOSPITAL
BEYOND THAT, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE O TELL YOU. HE SHOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN TO MAINLAND HOSPITAL AS OON AS POSSIBLE, AND IVEN A MORE THOROUGH EXAMINATION. AFTER THAT, YOU SHOULD ROBABLY HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH HERE.
WELL, WHEN'S THE NEXT BOAT OUT?
NEXT WEEK.
UNTIL THEN, WE'LL KEEP HIM UNDER OBSERVATION.

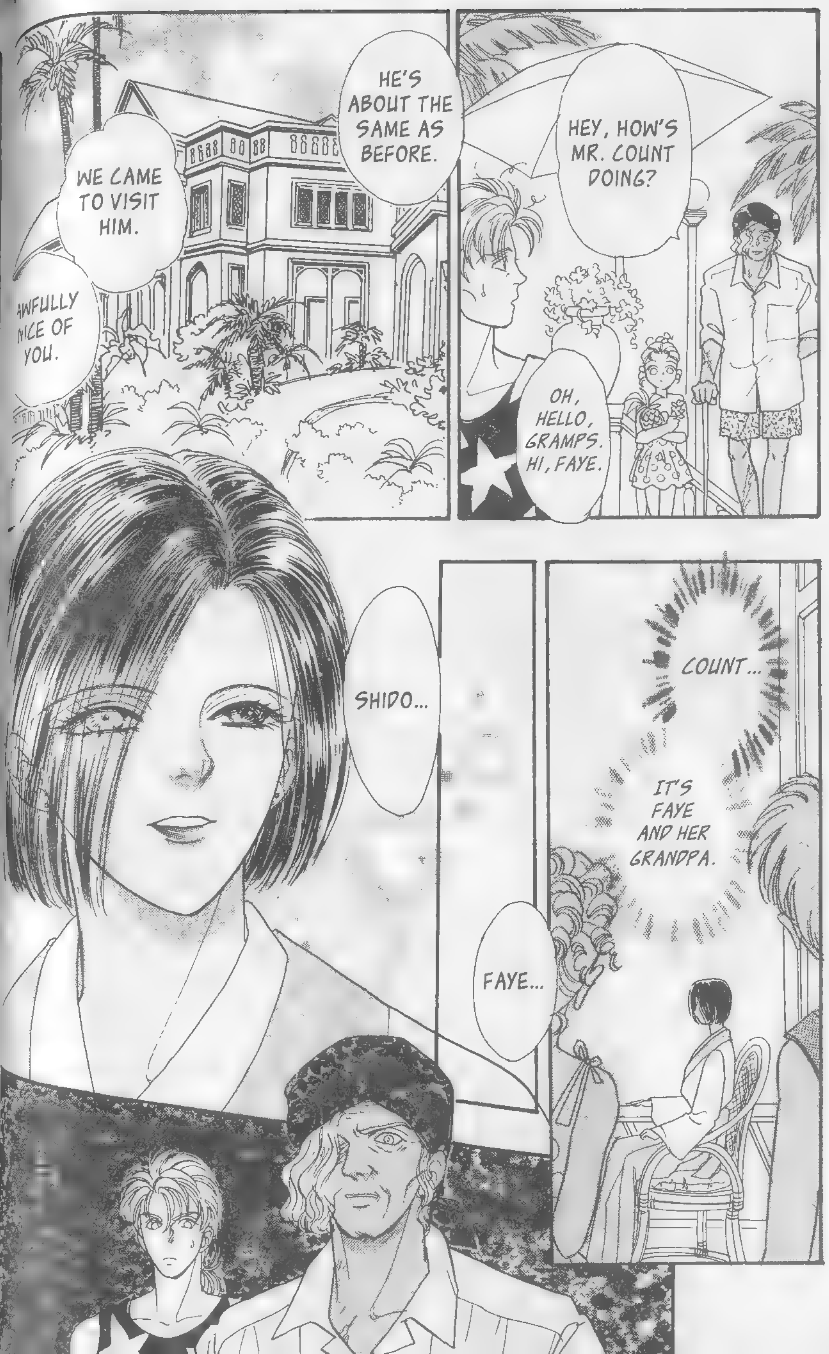

THIS IS PRECISELY WHY WE NEED AN AIRPORT ON THE ISLAND. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED!
WE DON'T NEED AN AIRPORT!
WE NEED BETTER MEDICAL FACILITIES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
BUT THE BENEFITS OF AN AIRPORT FAR OUTWEIGH ITS DISADVANTAGES!
WE'RE LOSING TOURISTS BY THE PLANEFUL TO RESORTS WHOSE OWNERS HAD THE FORESIGHT TO INCLUDE AN AIRPORT IN THEIR MASTER PLANS. THE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS NEGLIGIBLE!
BUSINESS HERE IS SUFFERING. WE DEPEND ON TOURISM! AN AIRPORT WOULD MAKE US COMPETITIVE AGAIN!
FORGET ALL THIS NONSENSE ABOUT AIRPORTS. EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED, YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. THE MERMAIDS HAVE RETURNED!
THERE ARE NO MERMAIDS, YOU FOOL! THOSE ARE JUST FAIRY TALES SPREAD BY DRUNK SAILORS.
THEY'RE NOT SPREAD BY SAILORS, THEY'RE SPREAD BY OL' SHIDO HERE! AND THEY'RE BAD FOR BUSINESS. WHAT HAPPENED, SHIDO? DID YOU GO BLIND IN YOUR ONE GOOD EYE AND STEER YOUR BOAT INTO A REEF?
ENOUGH, ALL OF YOU! THIS IS MY OFFICE AND THERE'S A PATIENT PRESENT.
WHAT'S THAT?!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. HE SEEMS TO BE OKAY, HOWEVER, IF THAT CHANGES WE CAN ALWAYS RADIO FOR A CHOPPER TO COME PICK HIM UP.
WHAT HE REALLY NEEDS IS SOME REST, RELAXATION AND FRESH AIR.
AND WHAT BETTER PLACE TO GET THOSE THREE THINGS THAN HERE ON THE BEACH?

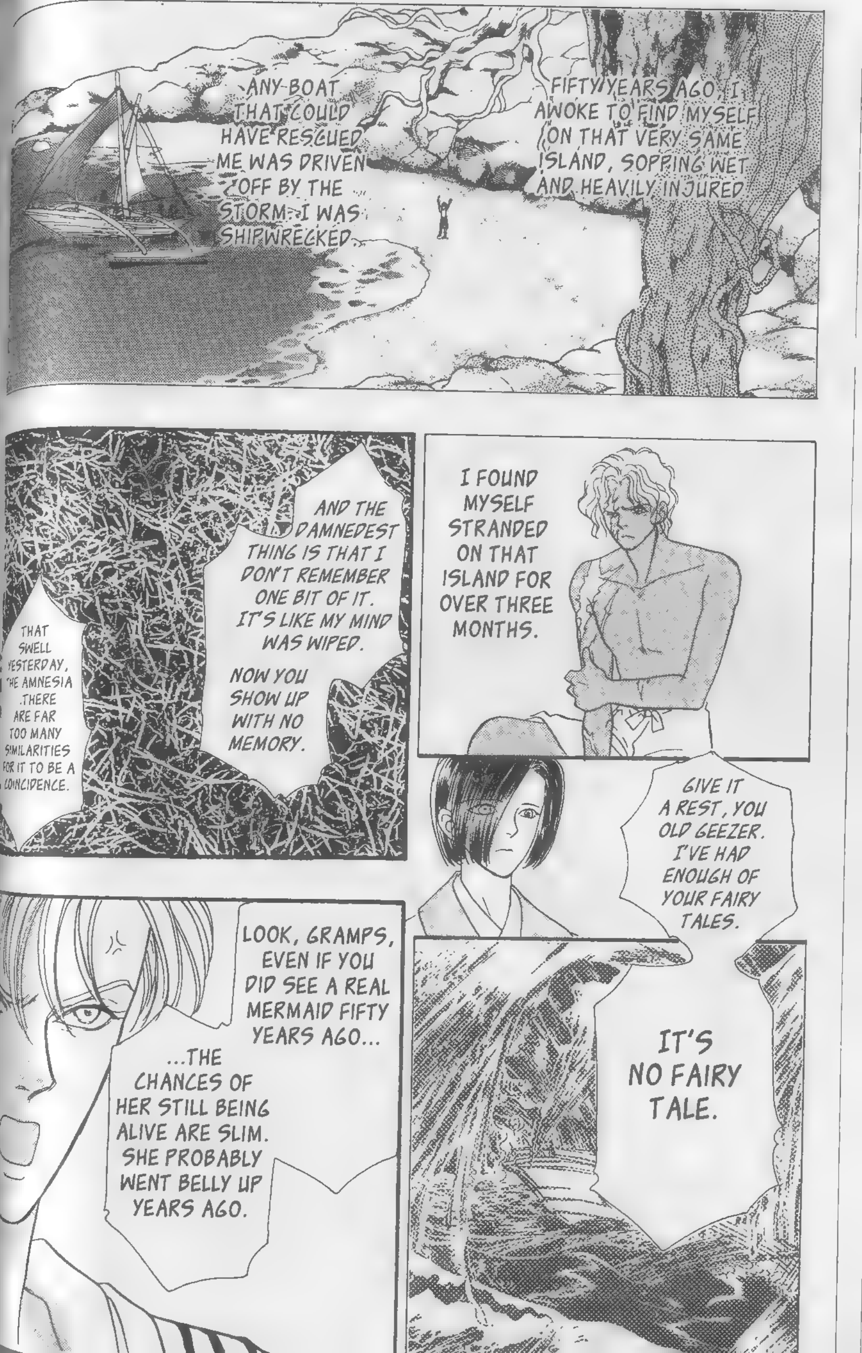

WHO KNEW ISLAND LIFE WAS SO COMPLICATED? HERE I THOUGHT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM THESE GUYS EVER HAD WAS HAVING TO LOOK FOR THEIR LOST SHAKERS OF SALT.
Hot
Corcosa Se
STILL BEATS HOME, THOUGH...
What do you think you're doing?!
I want this Detective Orcot off the force!
Mayor
How dare you throw my grandson in jail!
GRR!
GRR!
TREE...
FLOWER...
TREE.
FLOWER.
GRASS.
BUTTERFLY.
DRAGONFLY.
DRUNK.
HEAVEN
Q-CHAN.
KYU!
EXCELLENT!
HEY, DID HE CALL ME A DRUNK?!

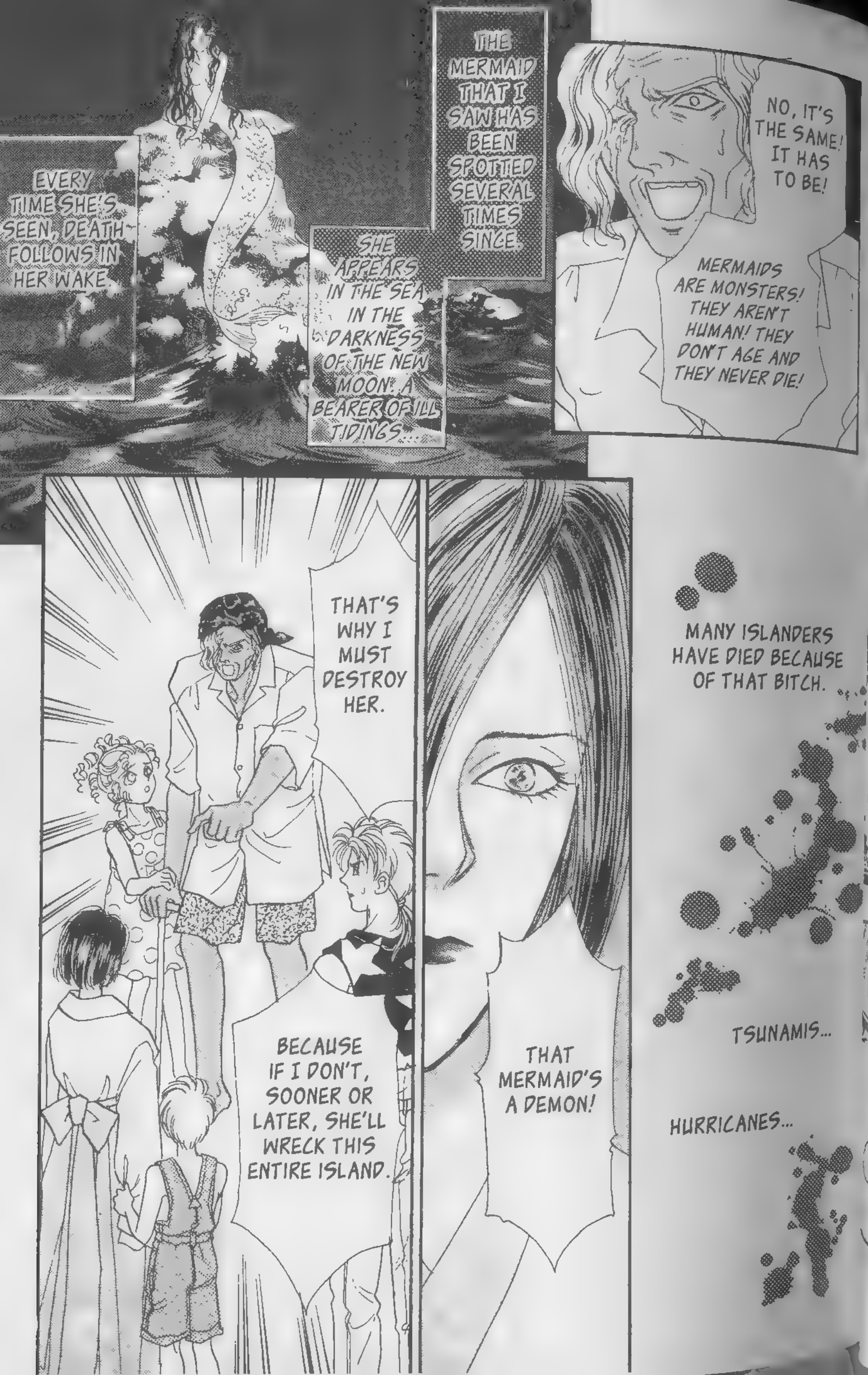

BIRD...
CLOUD...
SUN...
SKY...
SUN...
FORGETTING PEOPLE'S NAMES AND FACES...
...SHOULDN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE ACCUSTOMED TO HAVING THEM IN YOUR LIFE.
CLK
CLK
CLK
THE DOC SAID THIS WAS JUST TEMPORARY, RIGHT?
Goose bumps

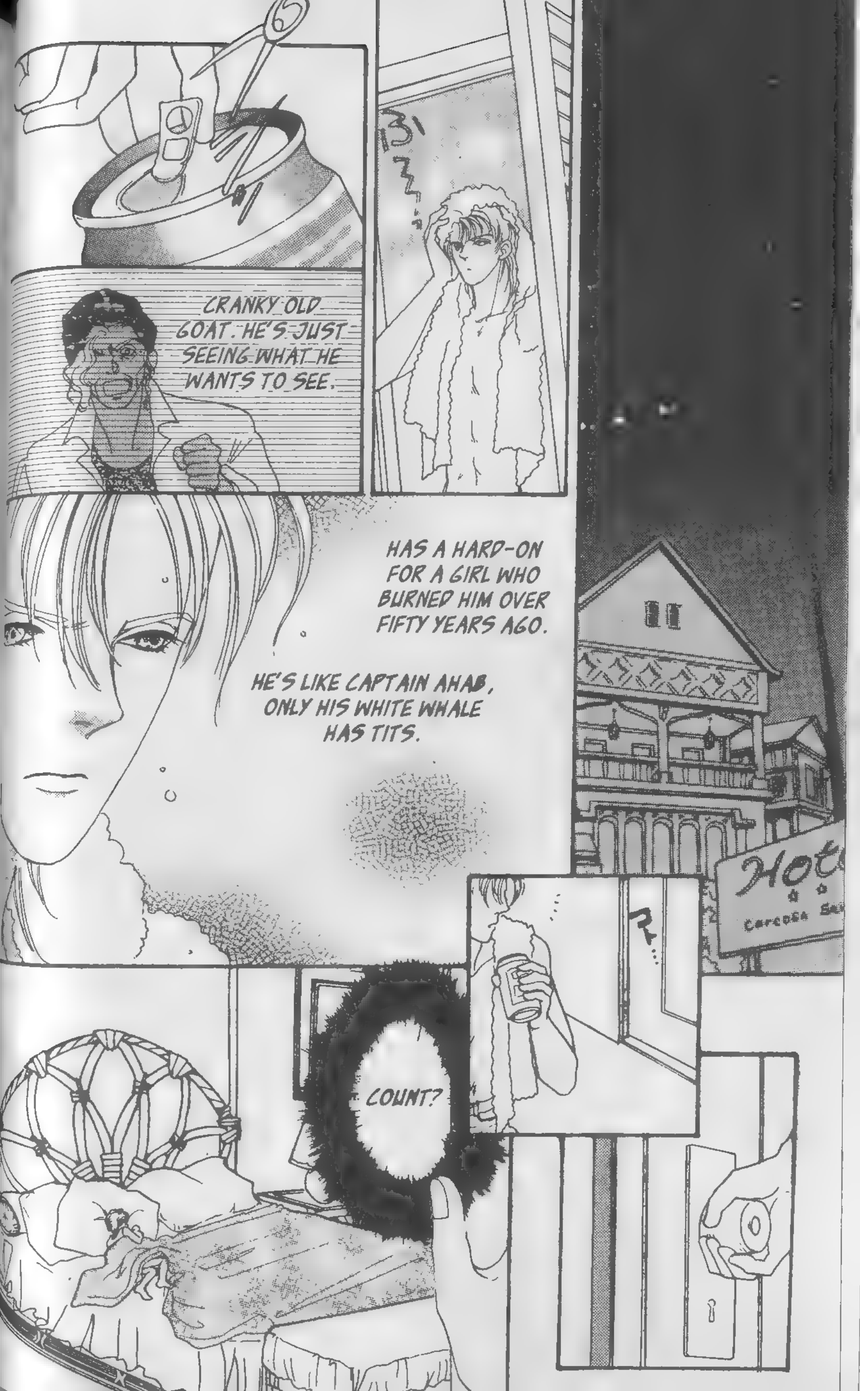

がっくし
DRUNK!!!
SO MUCH FOR A WEEK OF BEACHES, GIRLS AND PARTYING.
DAMMIT. HE'S ALL MESSED UP.
WAIT...
MAYBE THIS AMNESIA THING'S ALL JUST AN ACT.
HE WOULDN'T BE ABOVE DOING ALL THIS JUST TO PISS ME OFF.
ゴン
BONK!
COUNT!
THAT'S GLASS! IT'S CLEAR, BUT IT'S HARD!
YEAH, I KNOW...
HURTS...
OKAY, THAT LOOKED PRETTY REAL...

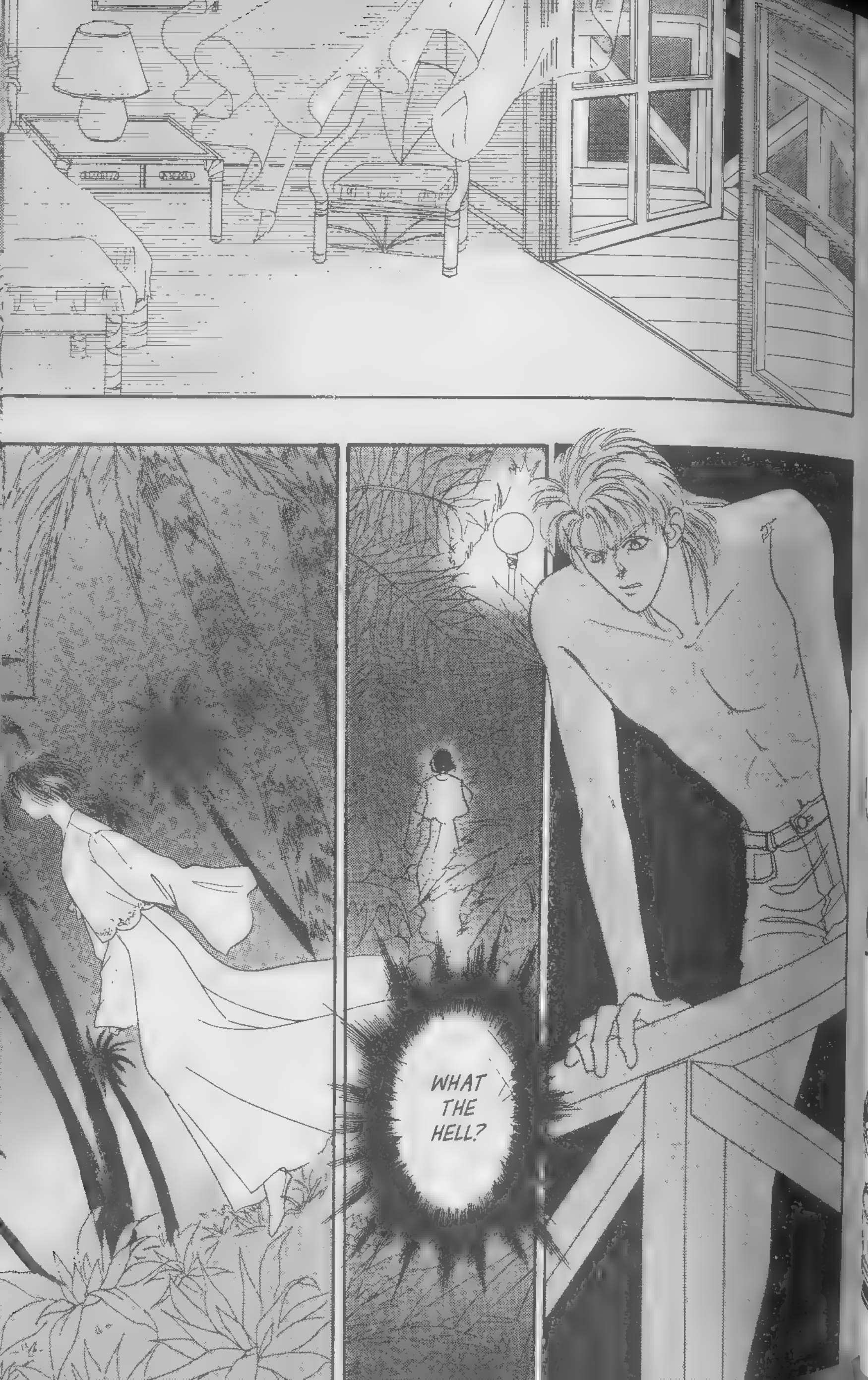

NO...
YOU COULDN'T HAVE...
YOU GOT ME.
How'd he know?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MY NAME IS SHIDO.
THAT'S ODD. COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T REMEMBER TELLING YOU MY NAME.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SEEN HER!
AH...
YOU HAVE TO TELL ME!
GRAMPS, LAY OFF!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SWAM AGAINST THE CURRENT FOR FIVE MILES TO GET TO THAT ROCK WE FOUND YOU ON BY YOURSELF. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN THE BEST OF SWIMMERS!
YOU HAD HELP, DIDN'T YOU? DIDN'T YOU?! TELL ME WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE!

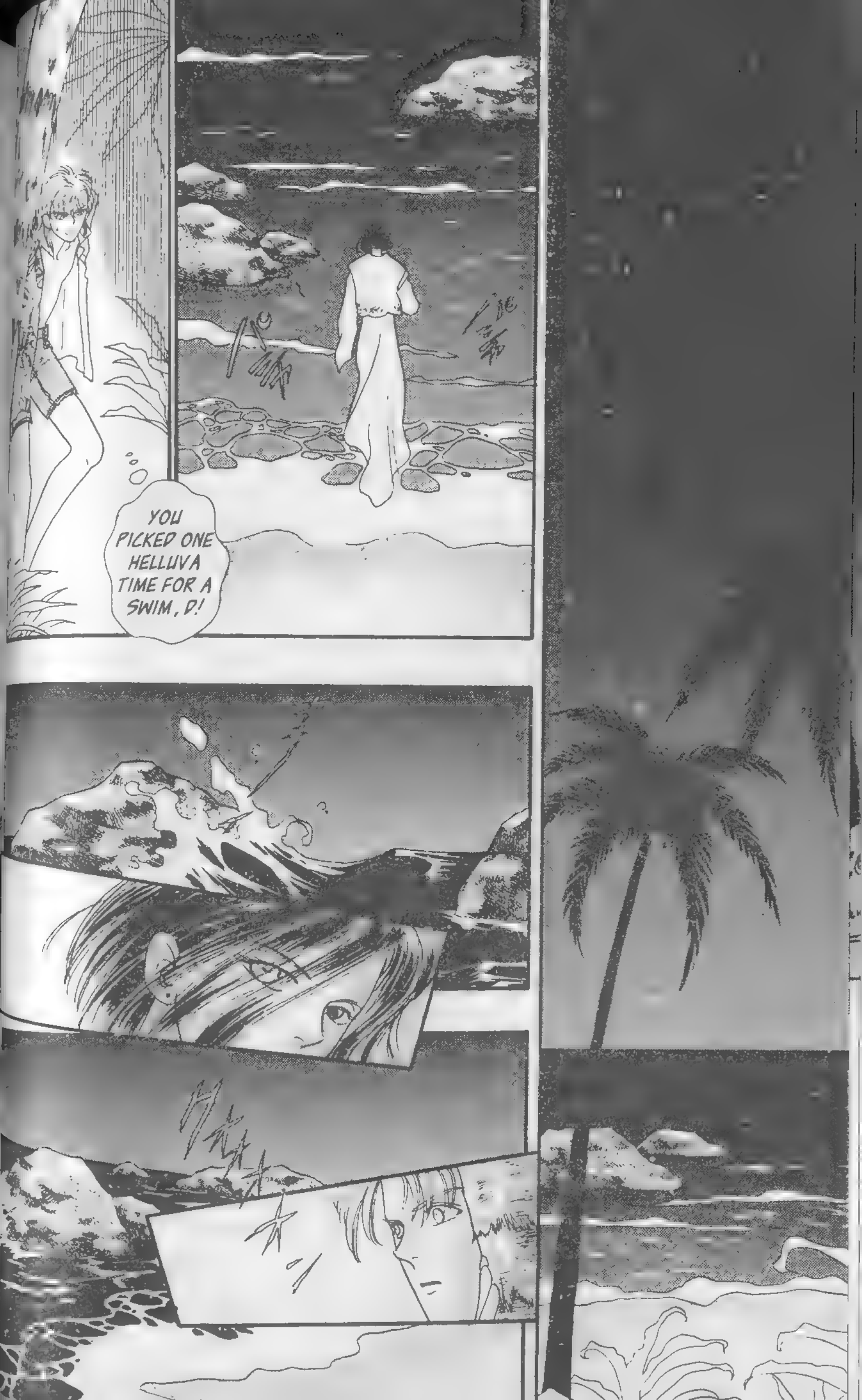

OH, HELLO, GRAMPS. HI, FAYE.
HEY, HOW'S MR. COUNT DOING?
HE'S ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE.
WE CAME TO VISIT HIM.
AWFULLY NICE OF YOU.
COUNT...
IT'S FAYE AND HER GRANDPA.
SHIDO...
FAYE...

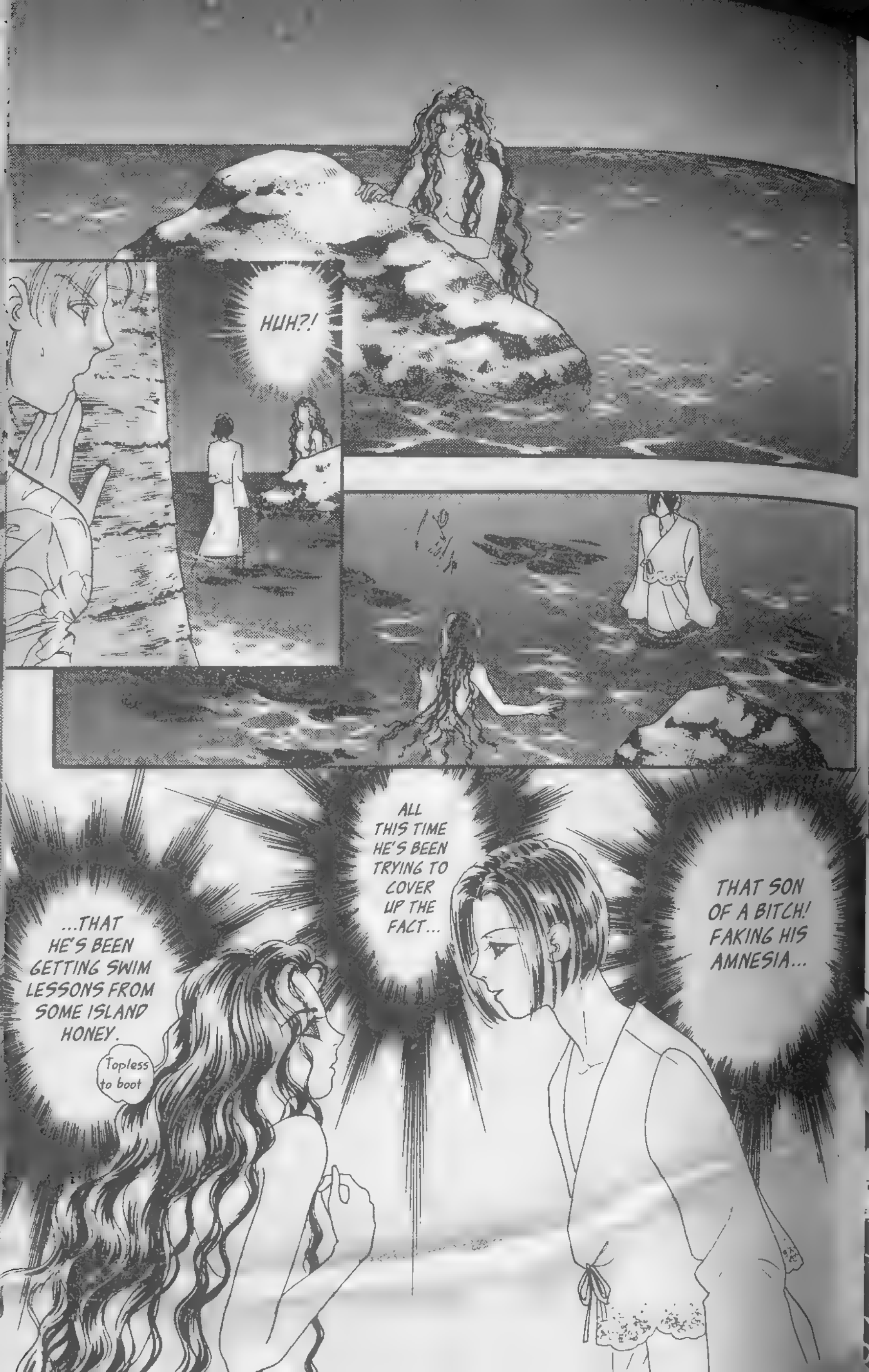

FIFTY YEARS AGO, I AWOKE TO FIND MYSELF ON THAT VERY SAME ISLAND, SOPPING WET AND HEAVILY INJURED.
ANY BOAT THAT COULD HAVE RESCUED ME WAS DRIVEN OFF BY THE STORM. I WAS SHIPWRECKED.
I FOUND MYSELF STRANDED ON THAT ISLAND FOR OVER THREE MONTHS.
AND THE DAMNEDEST THING IS THAT I DON'T REMEMBER ONE BIT OF IT. IT'S LIKE MY MIND WAS WIPED.
NOW YOU SHOW UP WITH NO MEMORY.
THAT SWELL YESTERDAY, THE AMNESIA. THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY SIMILARITIES FOR IT TO BE A COINCIDENCE.
GIVE IT A REST, YOU OLD GEEZER. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR FAIRY TALES.
LOOK, GRAMPS, EVEN IF YOU DID SEE A REAL MERMAID FIFTY YEARS AGO...
...THE CHANCES OF HER STILL BEING ALIVE ARE SLIM. SHE PROBABLY WENT BELLY UP YEARS AGO.
IT'S NO FAIRY TALE.

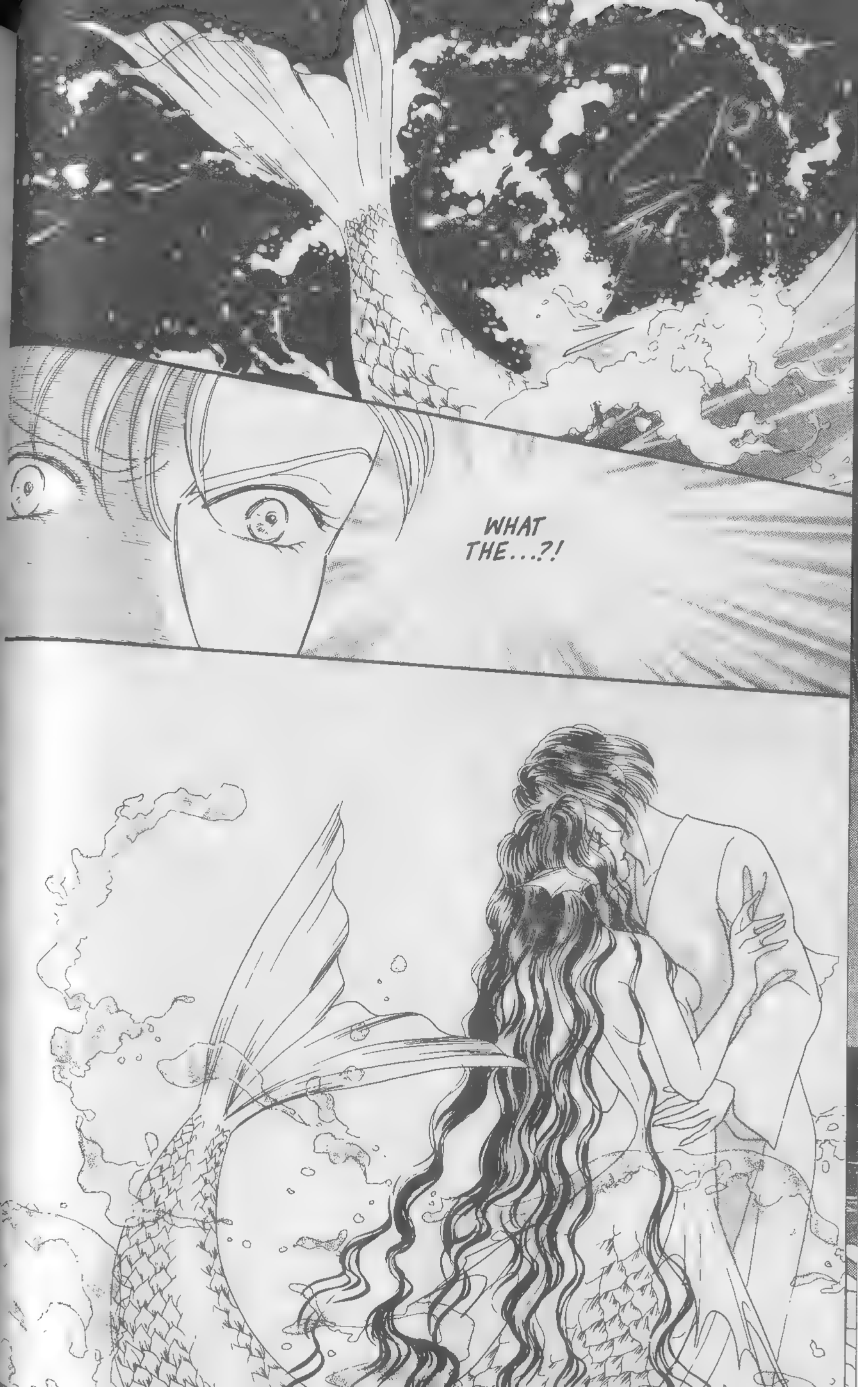

NO, IT'S THE SAME! IT HAS TO BE!
MERMAIDS ARE MONSTERS! THEY AREN'T HUMAN! THEY DON'T AGE AND THEY NEVER DIE!
THE MERMAID THAT I SAW HAS BEEN SPOTTED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE.
SHE APPEARS IN THE SEA IN THE DARKNESS OF THE NEW MOON. A BEARER OF ILL TIDINGS...
EVERY TIME SHE'S SEEN, DEATH FOLLOWS IN HER WAKE.
MANY ISLANDERS HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF THAT BITCH.
TSUNAMIS...
HURRICANES...
THAT MERMAID'S A DEMON!
THAT'S WHY I MUST DESTROY HER.
BECAUSE IF I DON'T, SOONER OR LATER, SHE'LL WRECK THIS ENTIRE ISLAND.

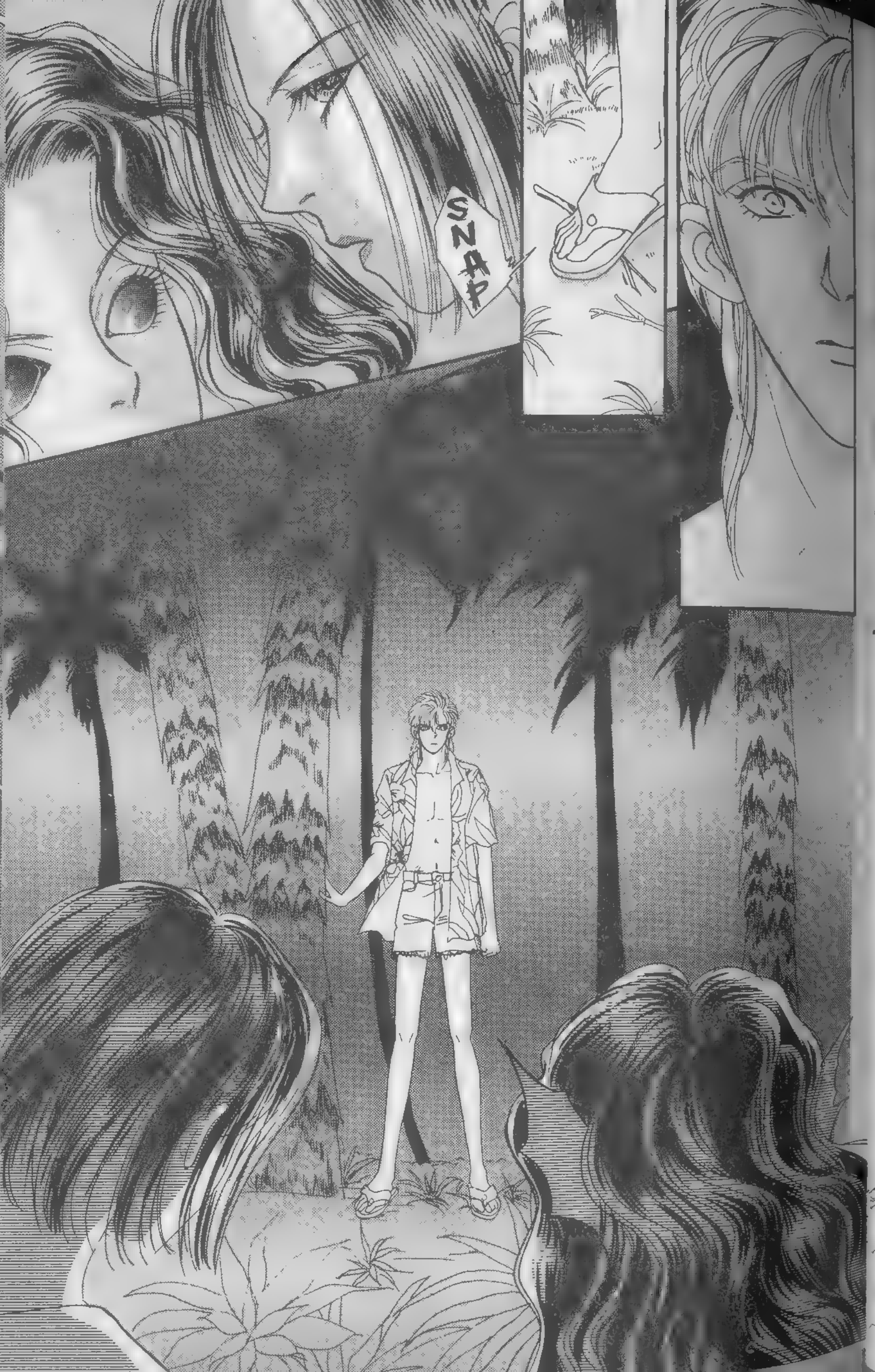

CRANKY OLD GOAT. HE'S JUST SEEING WHAT HE WANTS TO SEE.
HAS A HARD-ON FOR A GIRL WHO BURNED HIM OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO.
HE'S LIKE CAPTAIN AHAB, ONLY HIS WHITE WHALE HAS TITS.
COUNT?

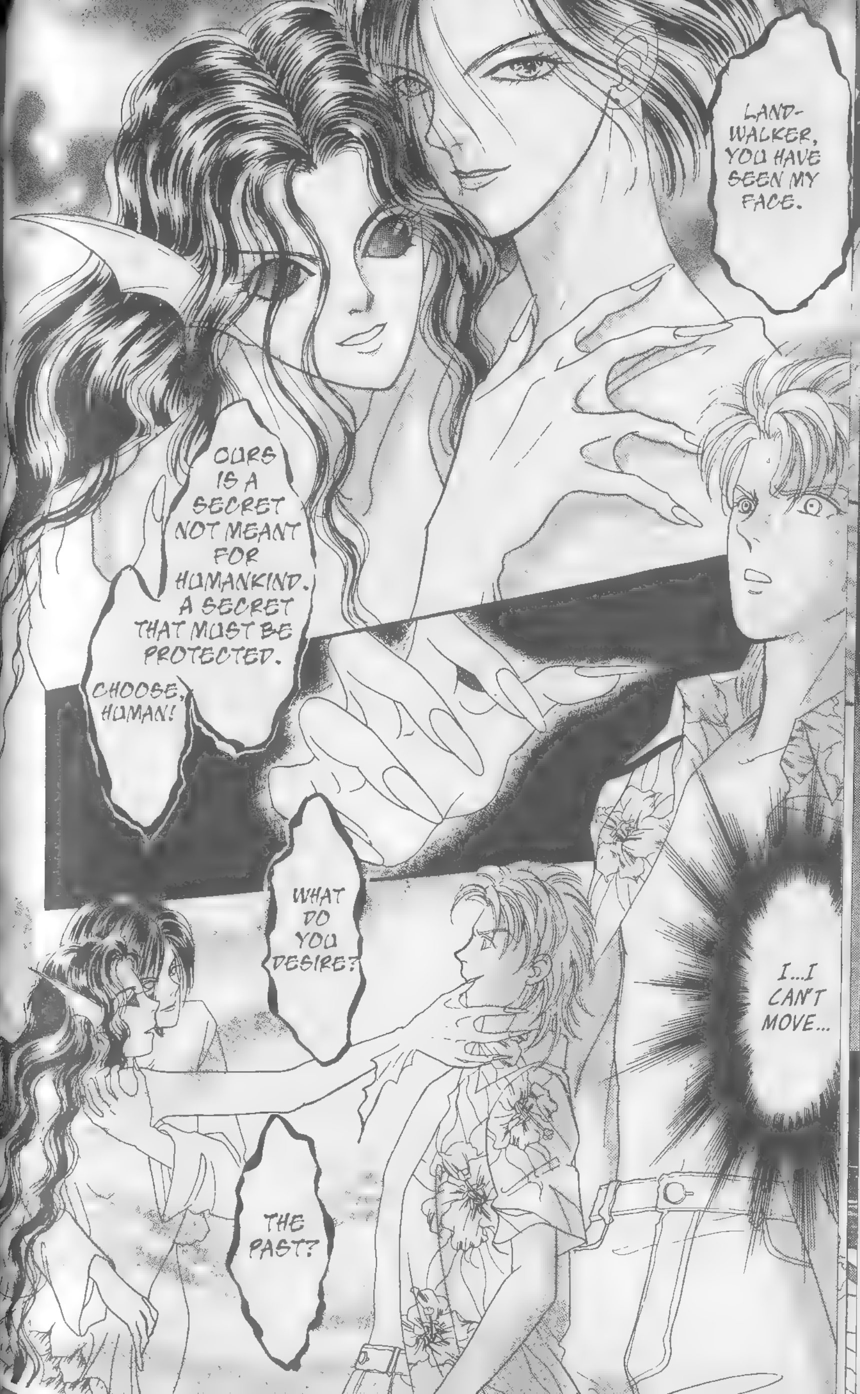

WHAT THE HELL?

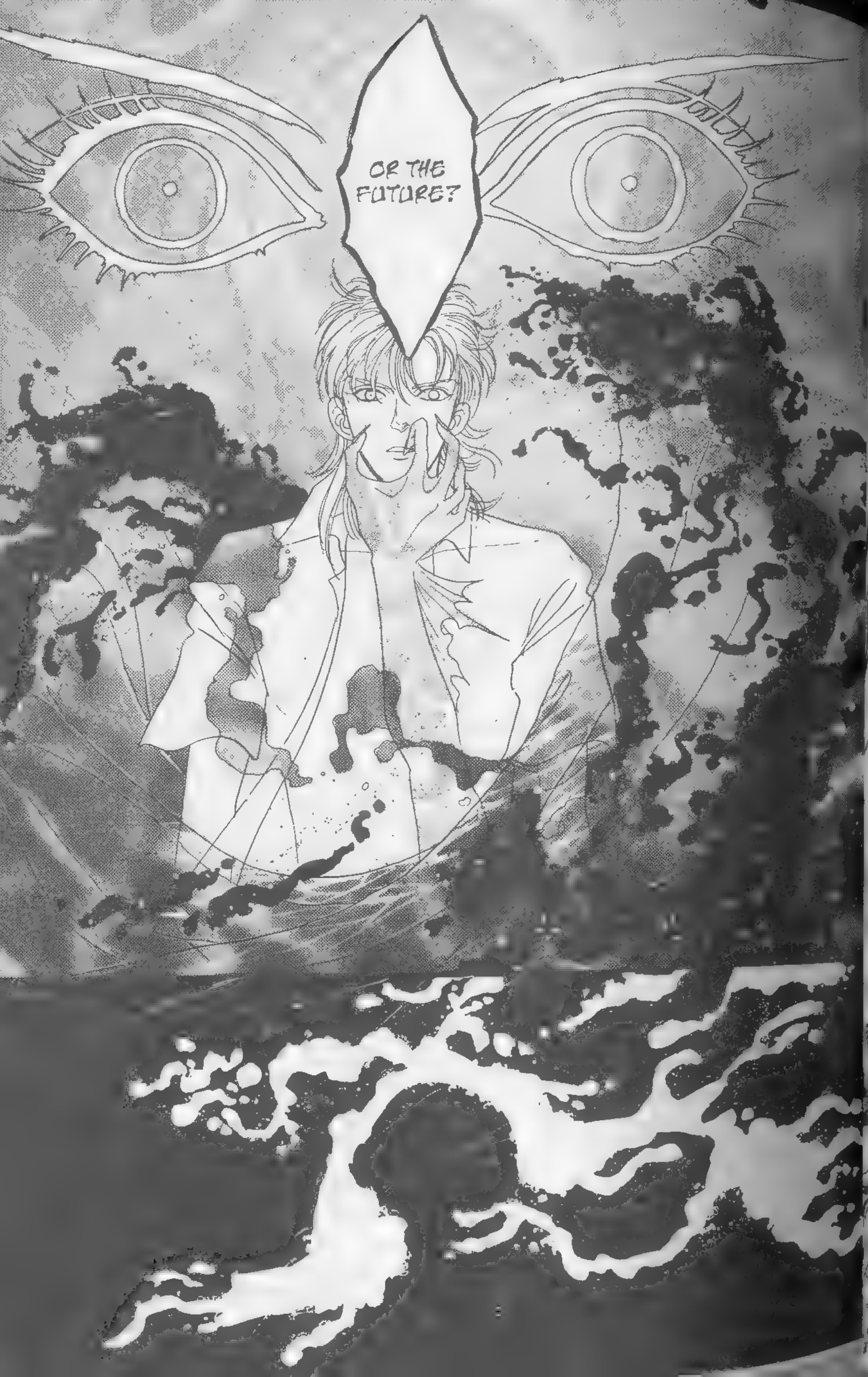

YOU PICKED ONE HELLUVA TIME FOR A SWIM, D!

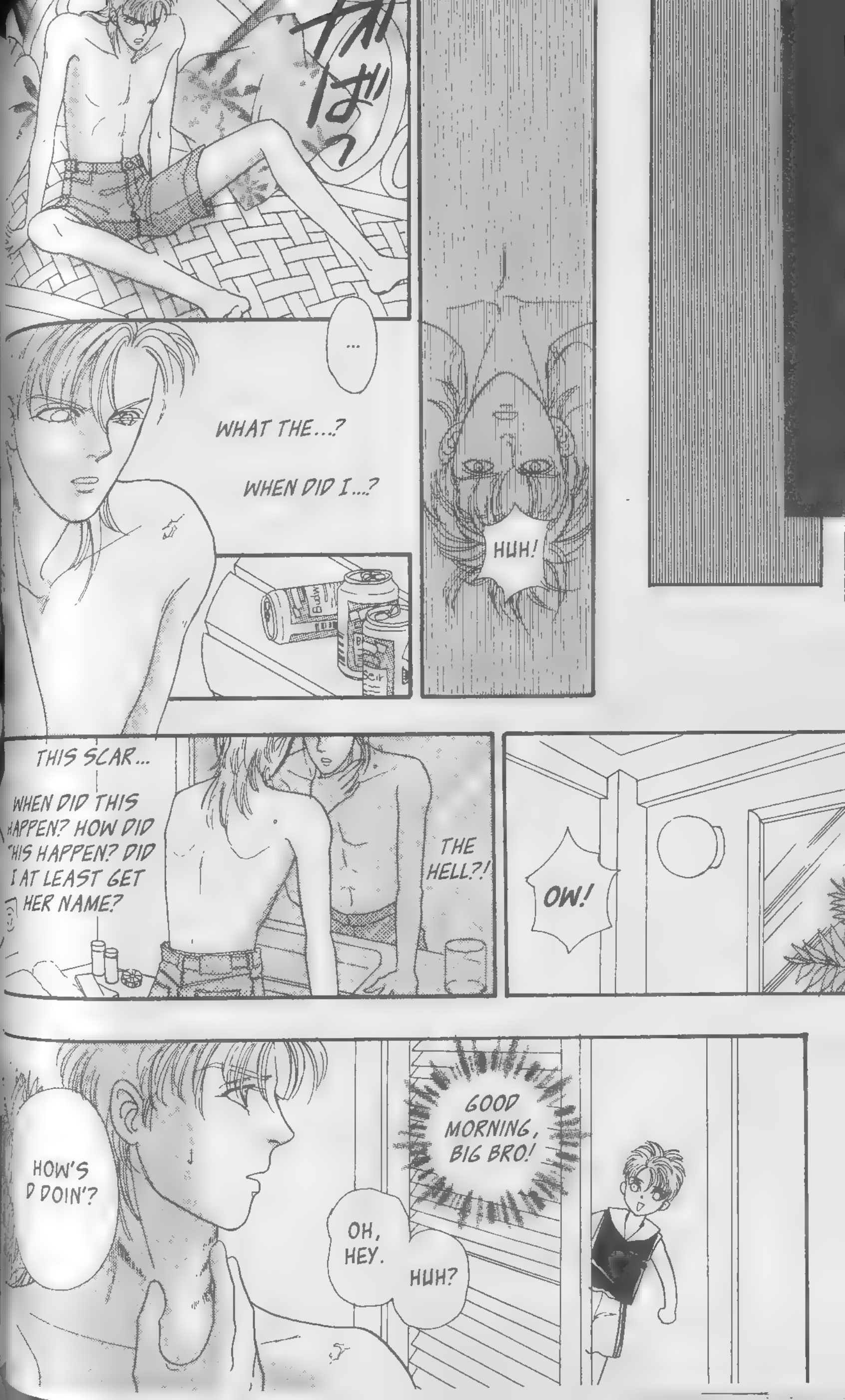

HUH?!
THAT SON OF A BITCH! FAKING HIS AMNESIA...
ALL THIS TIME HE'S BEEN TRYING TO COVER UP THE FACT...
...THAT HE'S BEEN GETTING SWIM LESSONS FROM SOME ISLAND HONEY.
Topless to boot

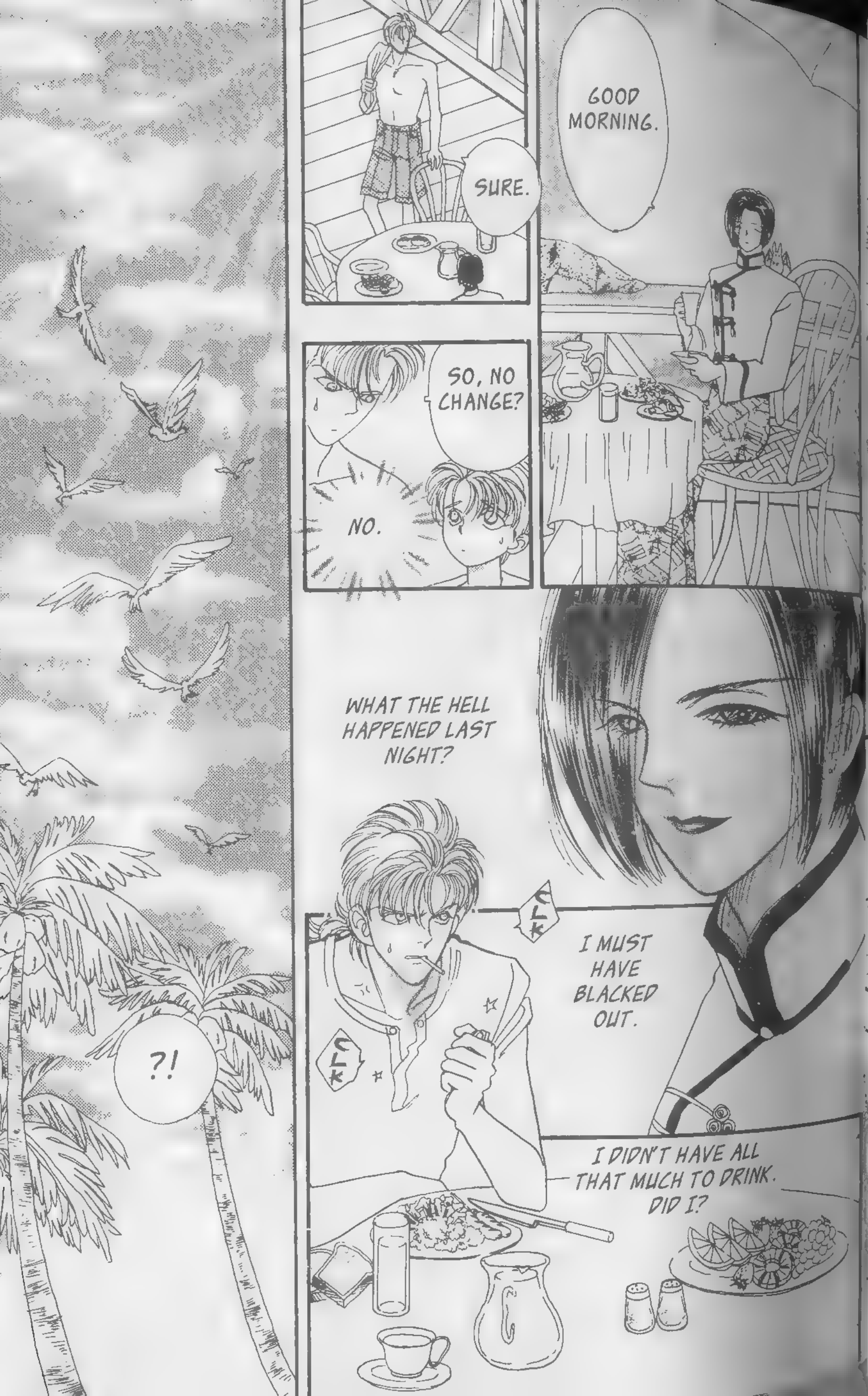

WHAT THE...?!

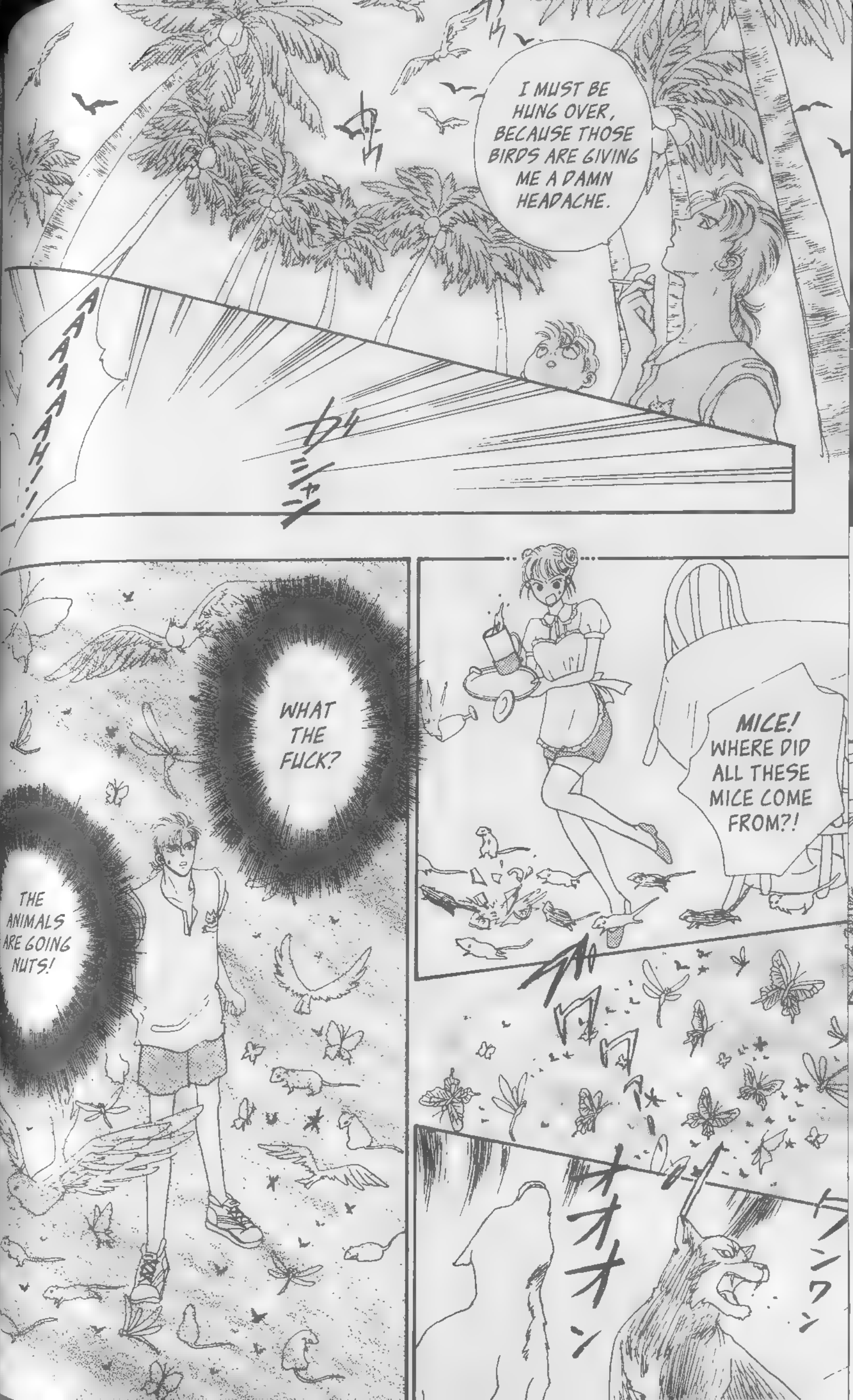

SNAP

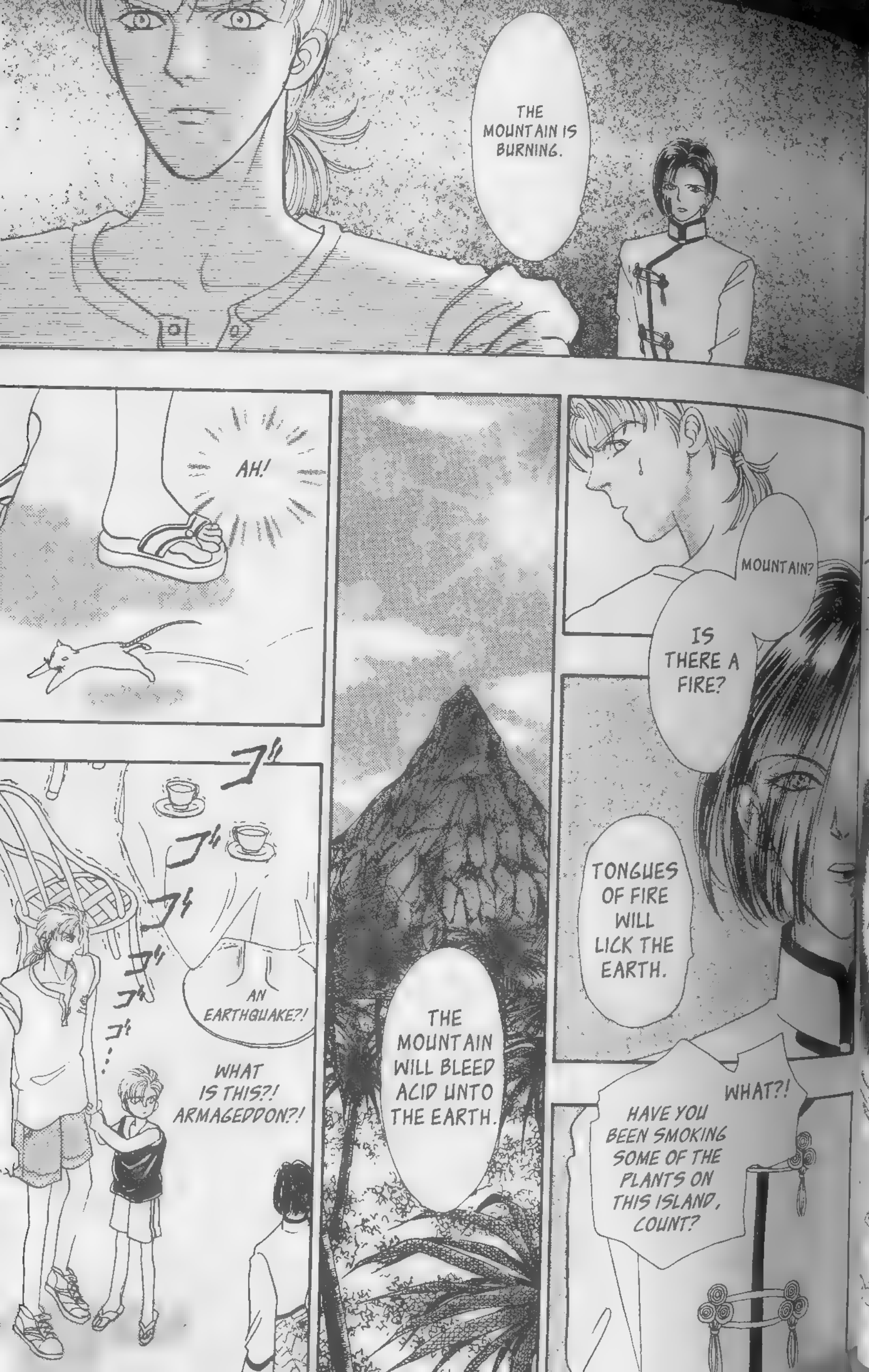

LAND-WALKER, YOU HAVE SEEN MY FACE.
OURS IS A SECRET NOT MEANT FOR HUMANKIND. A SECRET THAT MUST BE PROTECTED.
CHOOSE, HUMAN!
I...I CAN'T MOVE...
WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?
THE PAST?

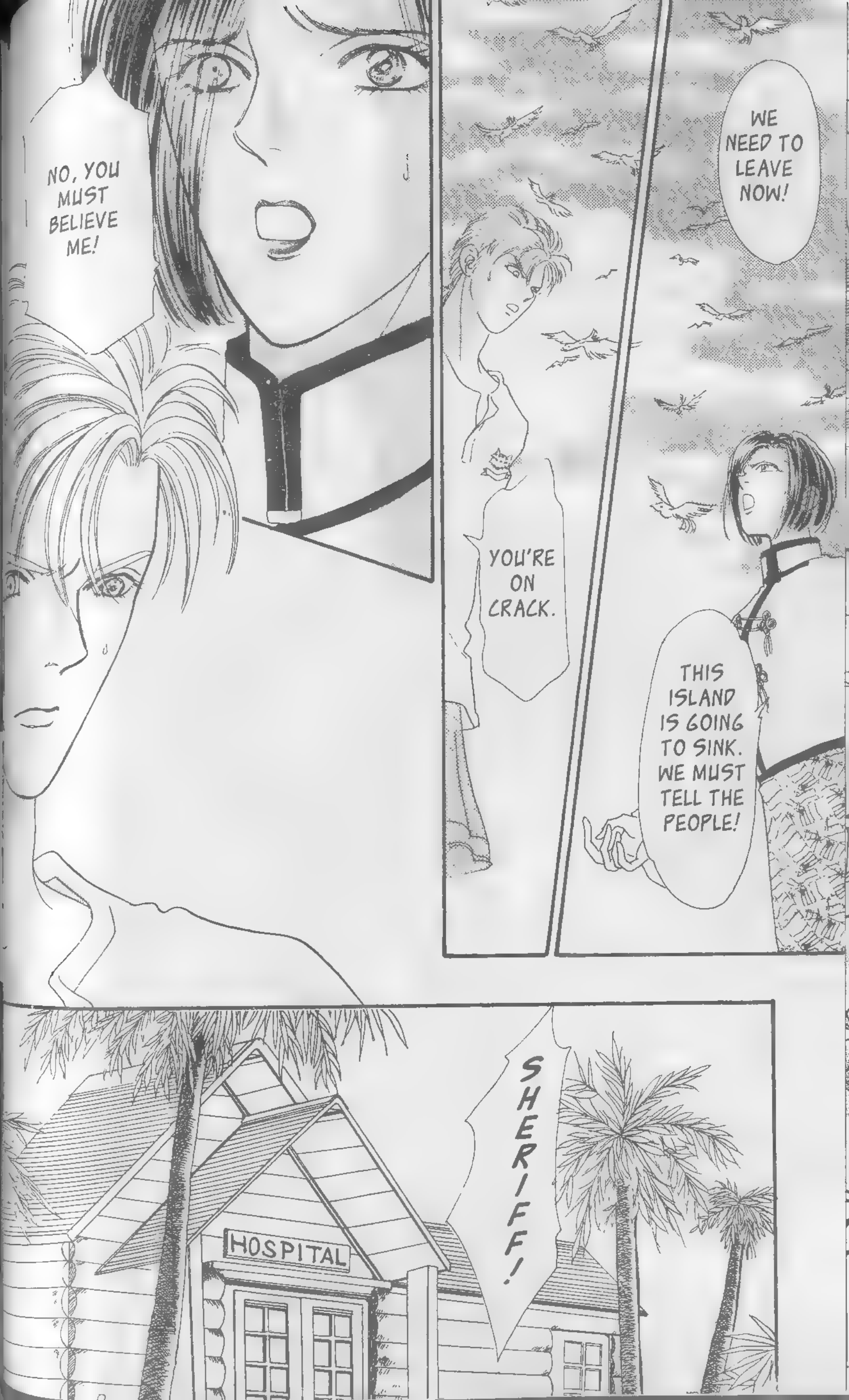

OR THE FUTURE?

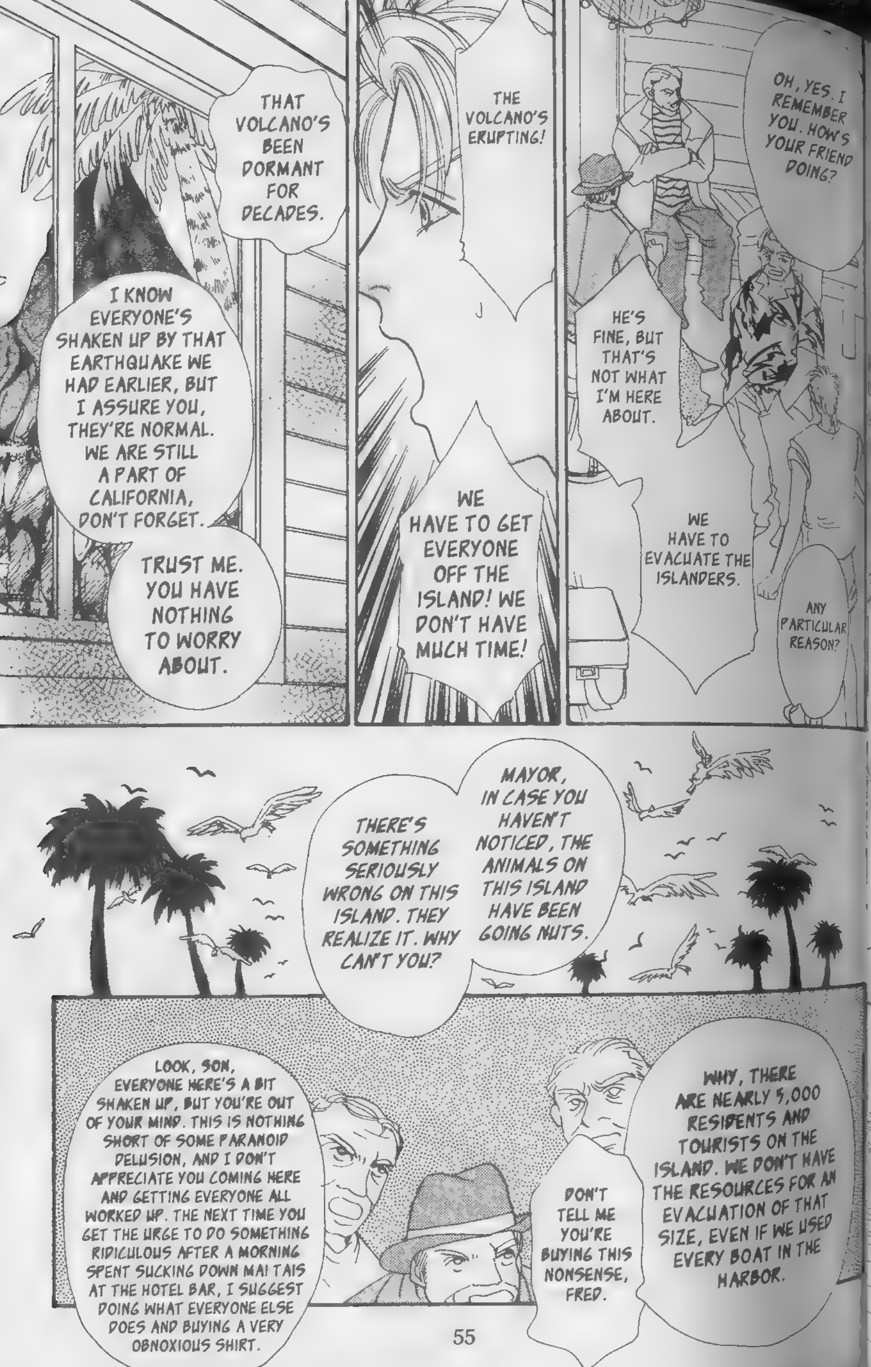

HUH!
ガばっ
...
WHAT THE...?
WHEN DID I...?
OW!
THE HELL?!
THIS SCAR...
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN? HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? DID I AT LEAST GET HER NAME?
GOOD MORNING, BIG BRO!
OH, HEY.
HUH?
HOW'S D DOIN'?

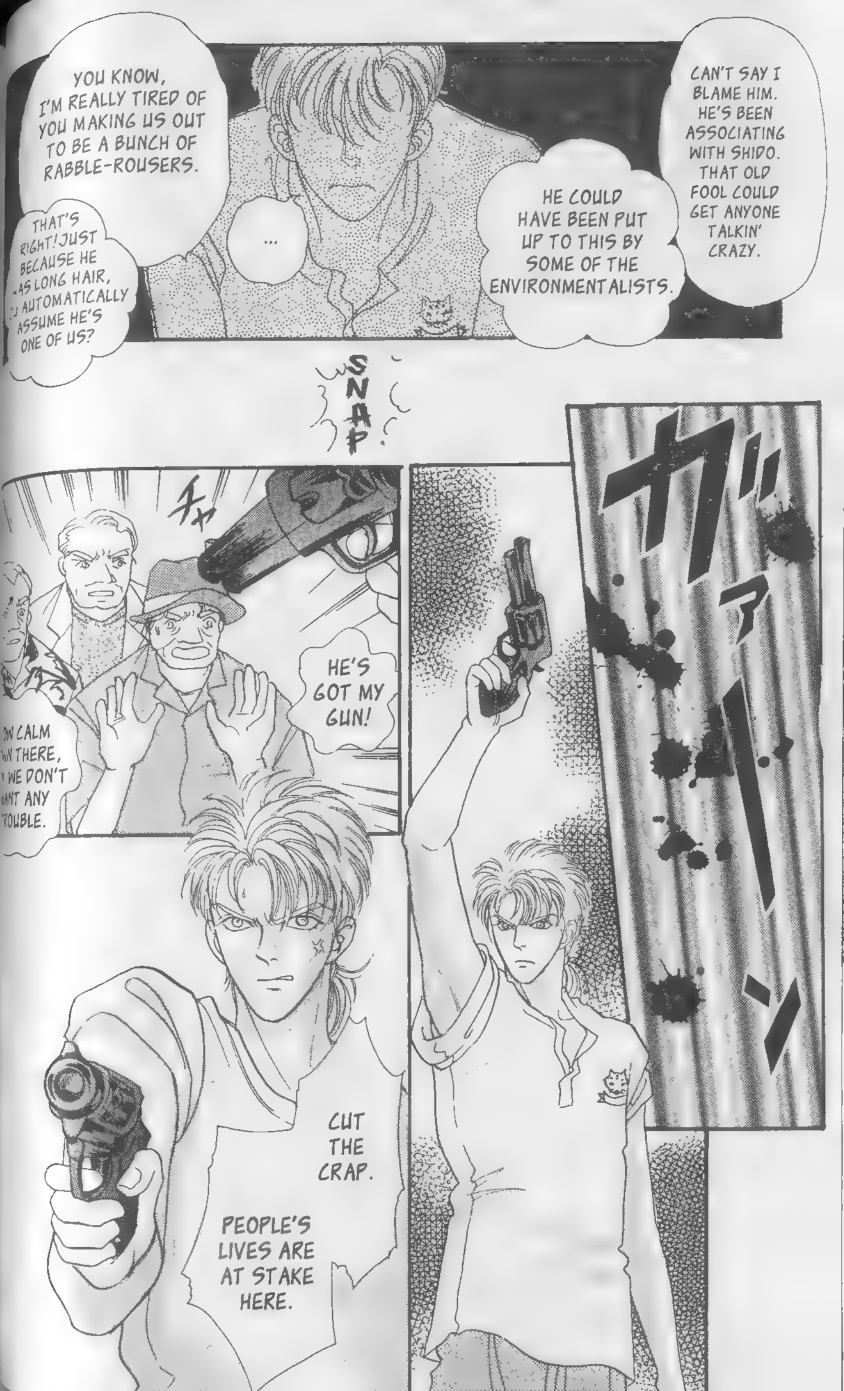

GOOD MORNING.
SURE.
SO, NO CHANGE?
NO.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT.
CLK
CLK
I DIDN'T HAVE ALL THAT MUCH TO DRINK. DID I?
?!

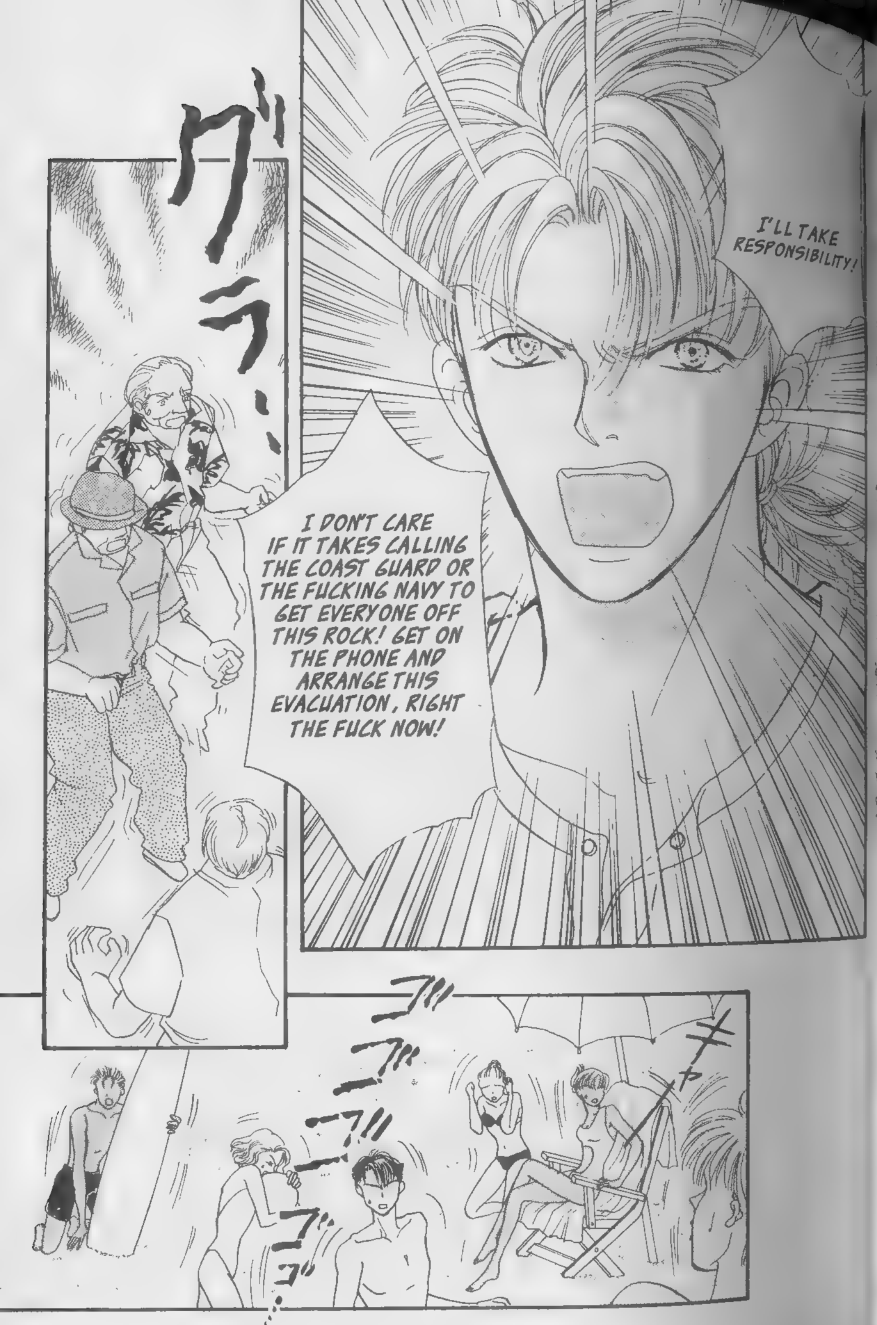

I MUST BE HUNG OVER, BECAUSE THOSE BIRDS ARE GIVING ME A DAMN HEADACHE.
AAAAAAH!!
ガシャン
MICE! WHERE DID ALL THESE MICE COME FROM?!
WHAT THE FUCK?
THE ANIMALS ARE GOING NUTS!
ワンワン
オオオン

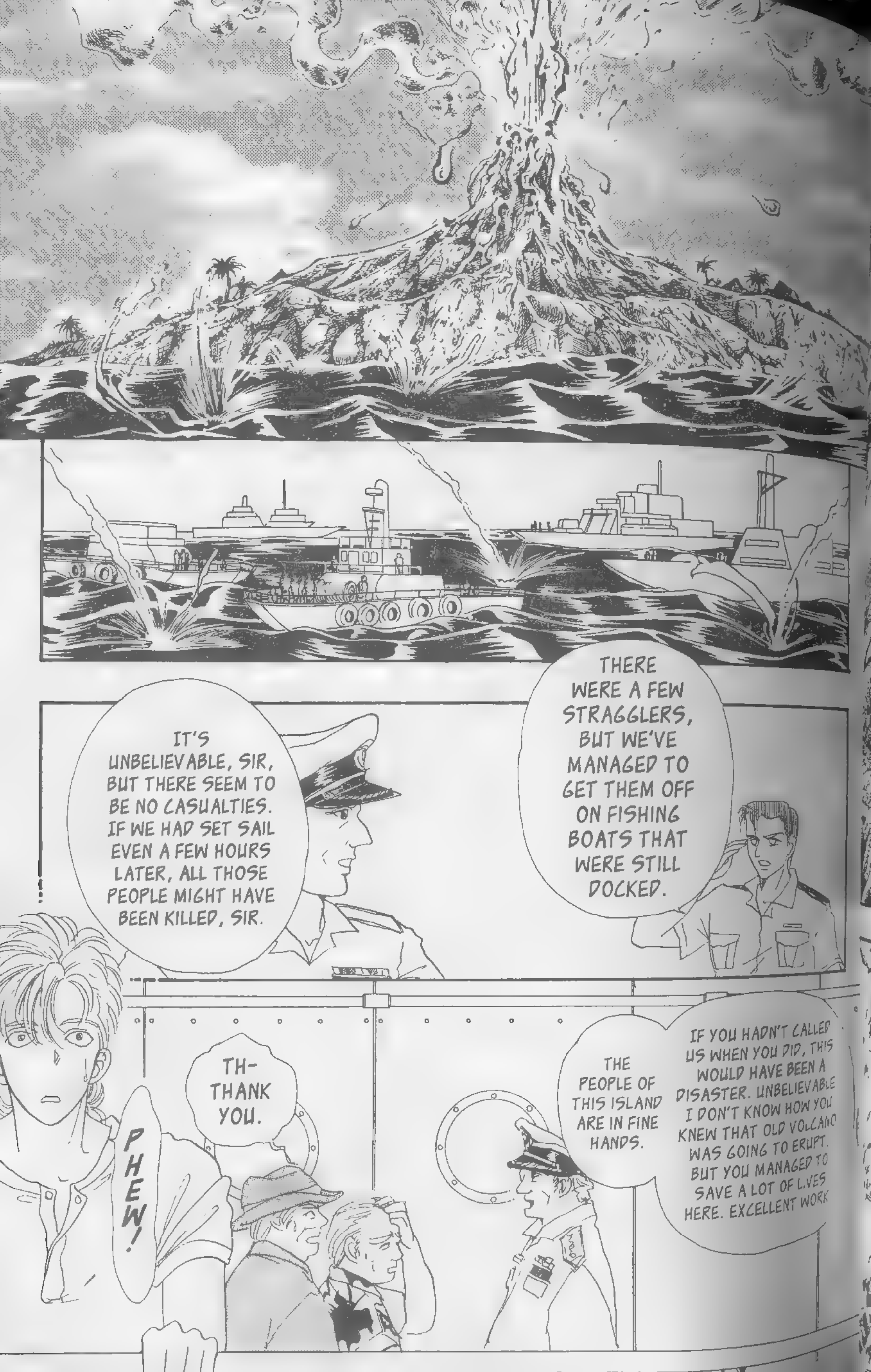

THE MOUNTAIN IS BURNING.
MOUNTAIN?
IS THERE A FIRE?
TONGUES OF FIRE WILL LICK THE EARTH.
WHAT?!
HAVE YOU BEEN SMOKING SOME OF THE PLANTS ON THIS ISLAND, COUNT?
THE MOUNTAIN WILL BLEED ACID UNTO THE EARTH.
AH!
ゴゴゴゴゴ
AN EARTHQUAKE?!
WHAT IS THIS?! ARMAGEDDON?!

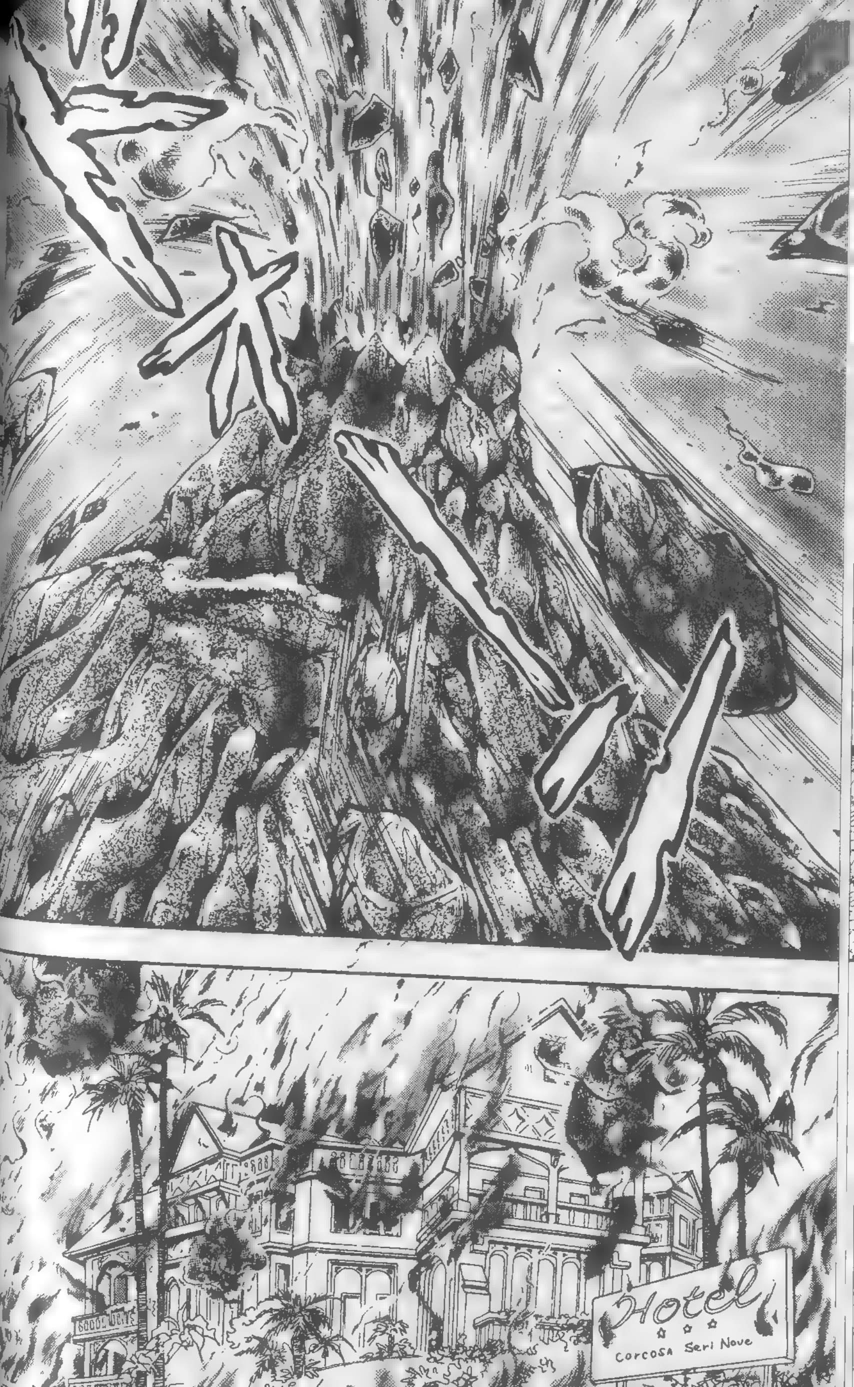

WE NEED TO LEAVE NOW!
THIS ISLAND IS GOING TO SINK. WE MUST TELL THE PEOPLE!
YOU'RE ON CRACK.
NO, YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
SHERIFF!
HOSPITAL

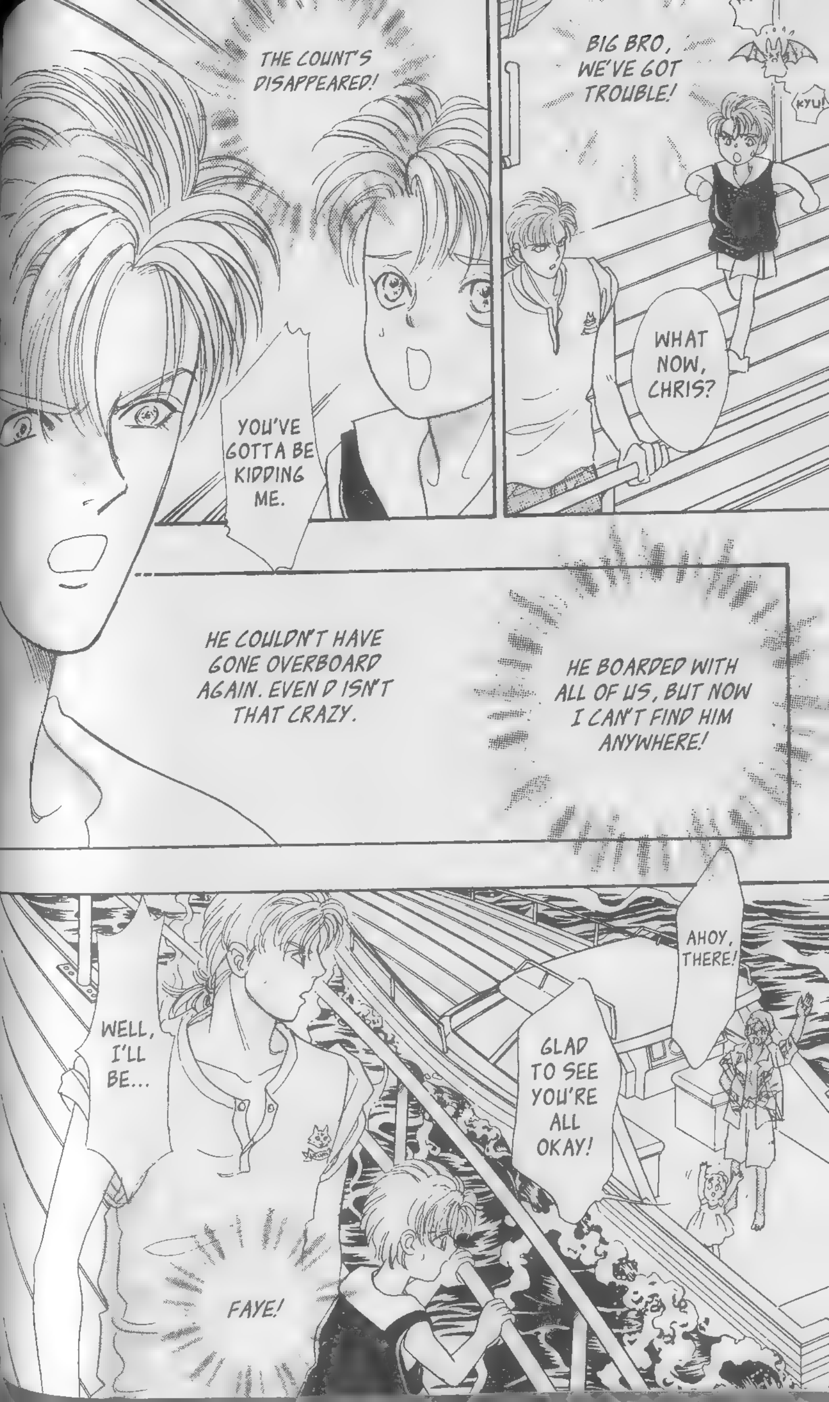

OH, YES. I REMEMBER YOU. HOW'S YOUR FRIEND DOING?
HE'S FINE, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M HERE ABOUT.
WE HAVE TO EVACUATE THE ISLANDERS.
ANY PARTICULAR REASON?
THE VOLCANO'S ERUPTING!
WE HAVE TO GET EVERYONE OFF THE ISLAND! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
THAT VOLCANO'S BEEN DORMANT FOR DECADES.
I KNOW EVERYONE'S SHAKEN UP BY THAT EARTHQUAKE WE HAD EARLIER, BUT I ASSURE YOU, THEY'RE NORMAL. WE ARE STILL A PART OF CALIFORNIA, DON'T FORGET.
TRUST ME. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
MAYOR, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, THE ANIMALS ON THIS ISLAND HAVE BEEN GOING NUTS.
THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG ON THIS ISLAND. THEY REALIZE IT. WHY CAN'T YOU?
WHY, THERE ARE NEARLY 5,000 RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS ON THE ISLAND. WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES FOR AN EVACUATION OF THAT SIZE, EVEN IF WE USED EVERY BOAT IN THE HARBOR.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE BUYING THIS NONSENSE, FRED.
LOOK, SON, EVERYONE HERE'S A BIT SHAKEN UP, BUT YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND. THIS IS NOTHING SHORT OF SOME PARANOID DELUSION, AND I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU COMING HERE AND GETTING EVERYONE ALL WORKED UP. THE NEXT TIME YOU GET THE URGE TO DO SOMETHING RIDICULOUS AFTER A MORNING SPENT SUCKING DOWN MAI TAIS AT THE HOTEL BAR, I SUGGEST DOING WHAT EVERYONE ELSE DOES AND BUYING A VERY OBNOXIOUS SHIRT.

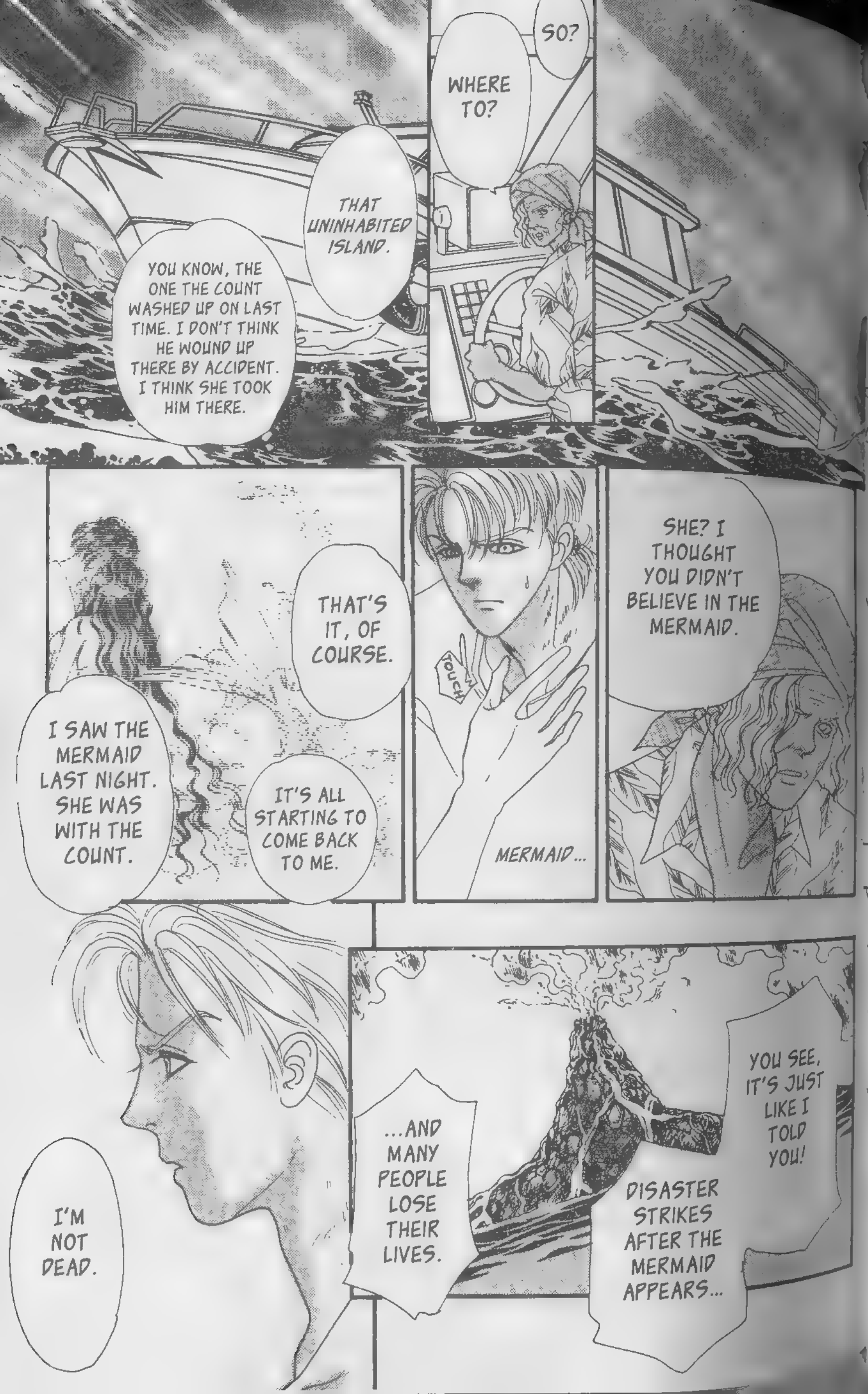

CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM. HE'S BEEN ASSOCIATING WITH SHIDO. THAT OLD FOOL COULD GET ANYONE TALKIN' CRAZY.
HE COULD HAVE BEEN PUT UP TO THIS BY SOME OF THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS.
...
YOU KNOW, I'M REALLY TIRED OF YOU MAKING US OUT TO BE A BUNCH OF RABBLE-ROUSERS.
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST BECAUSE HE AS LONG HAIR, U AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME HE'S ONE OF US?
SNAP
ガァーン
HE'S GOT MY GUN!
チャ
OW CALM WN THERE, WE DON'T ANT ANY ROUBLE.
CUT THE CRAP.
PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE AT STAKE HERE.

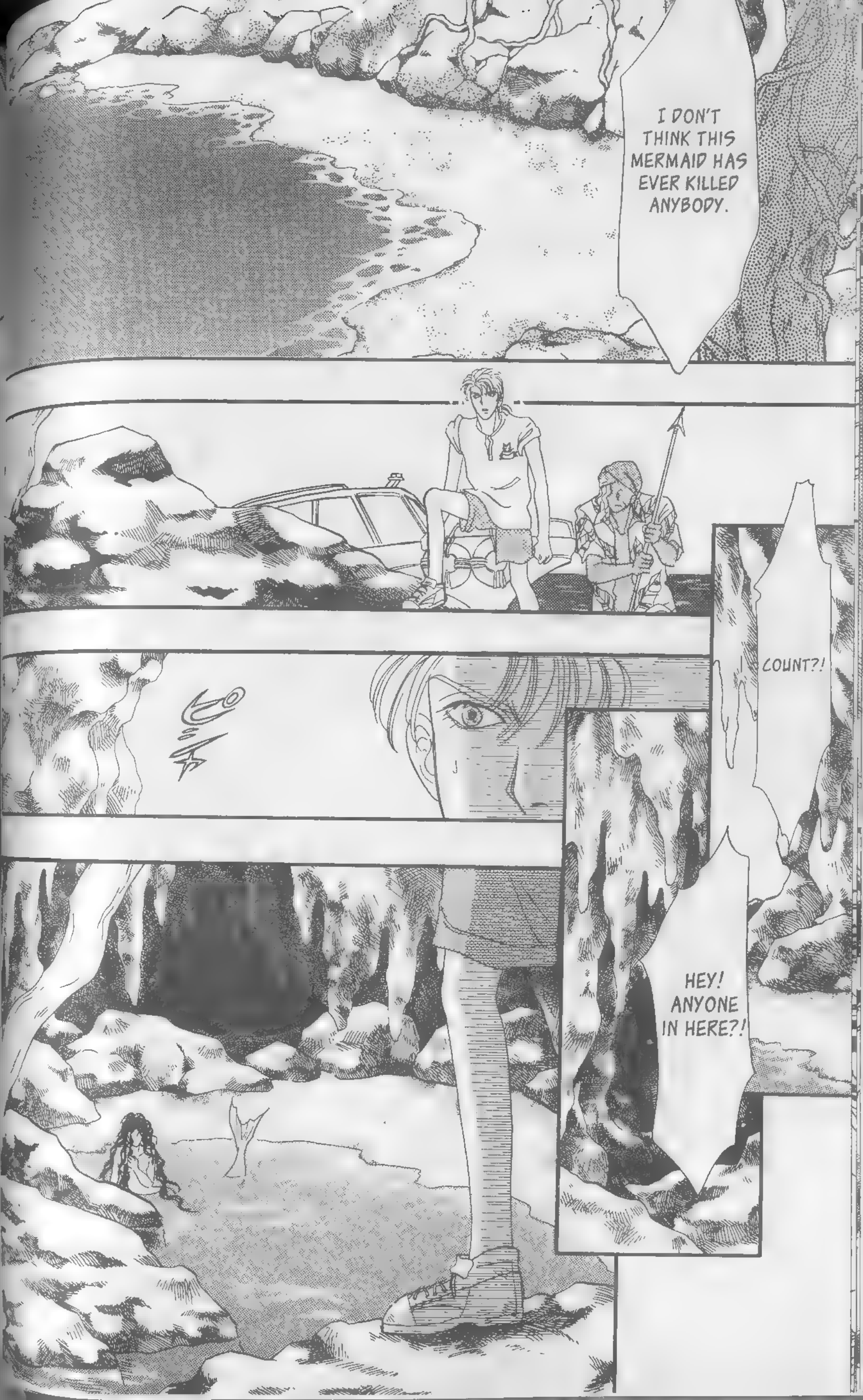

グラ
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
I DON'T CARE IF IT TAKES CALLING THE COAST GUARD OR THE FUCKING NAVY TO GET EVERYONE OFF THIS ROCK! GET ON THE PHONE AND ARRANGE THIS EVACUATION, RIGHT THE FUCK NOW!
ゴゴゴゴゴ!!
キャ
...

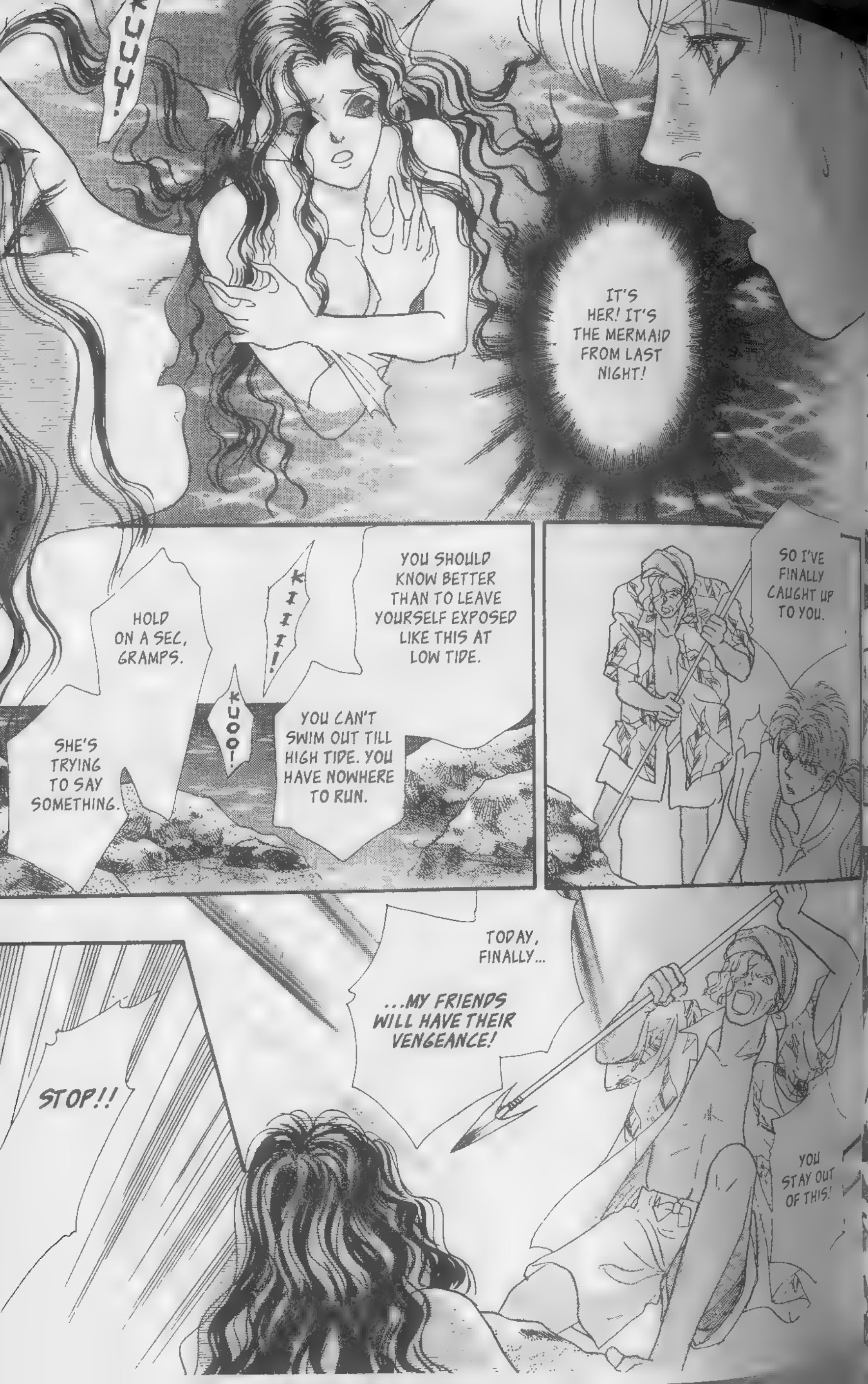

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, SIR, BUT THERE SEEM TO BE NO CASUALTIES. IF WE HAD SET SAIL EVEN A FEW HOURS LATER, ALL THOSE PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED, SIR.
THERE WERE A FEW STRAGGLERS, BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO GET THEM OFF ON FISHING BOATS THAT WERE STILL DOCKED.
IF YOU HADN'T CALLED US WHEN YOU DID, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A DISASTER. UNBELIEVABLE I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KNEW THAT OLD VOLCANO WAS GOING TO ERUPT. BUT YOU MANAGED TO SAVE A LOT OF LIVES HERE. EXCELLENT WORK
THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND ARE IN FINE HANDS.
TH-THANK YOU.
PHEW!

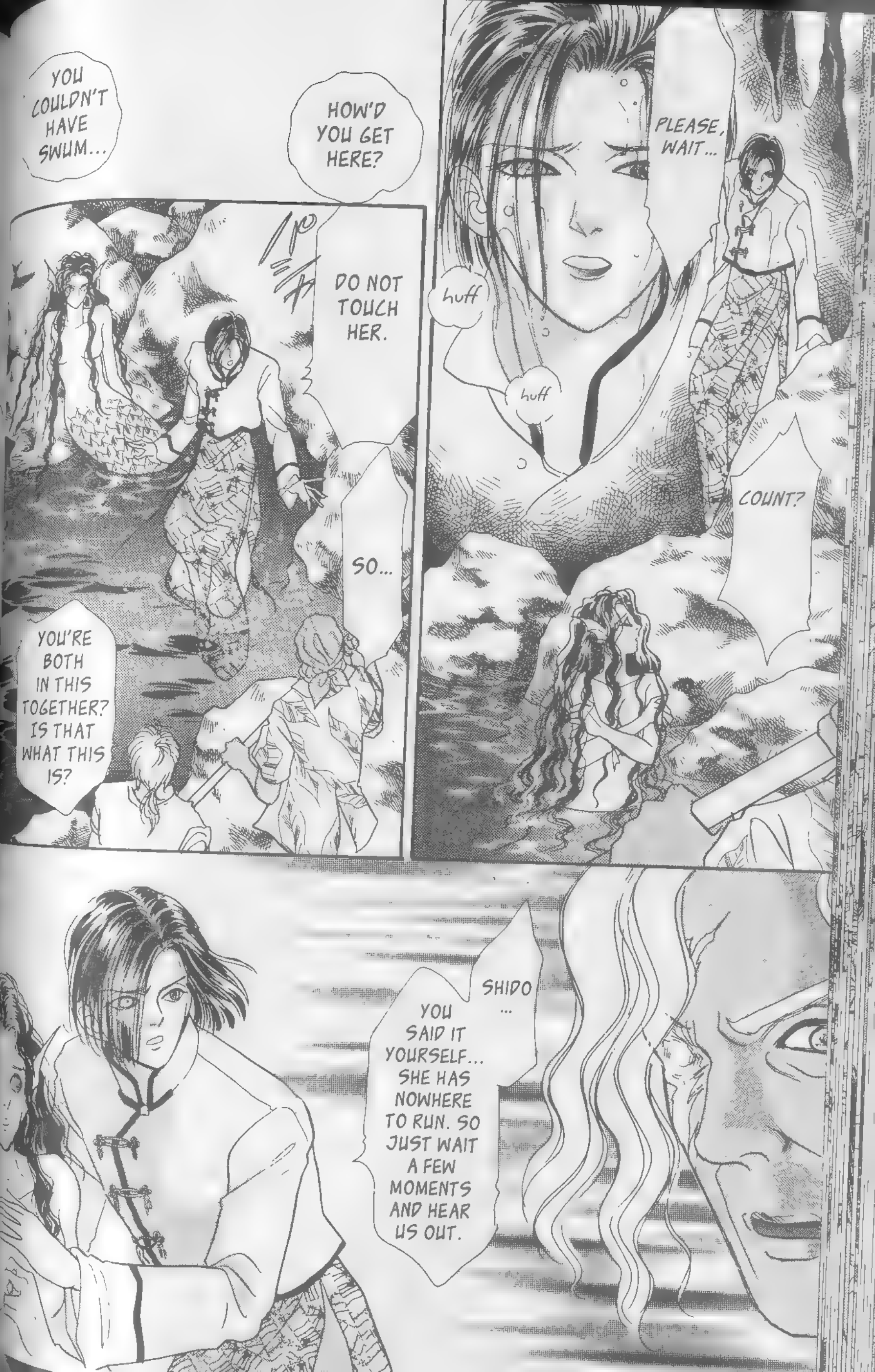

Hotel
Corcosa Seri Nove

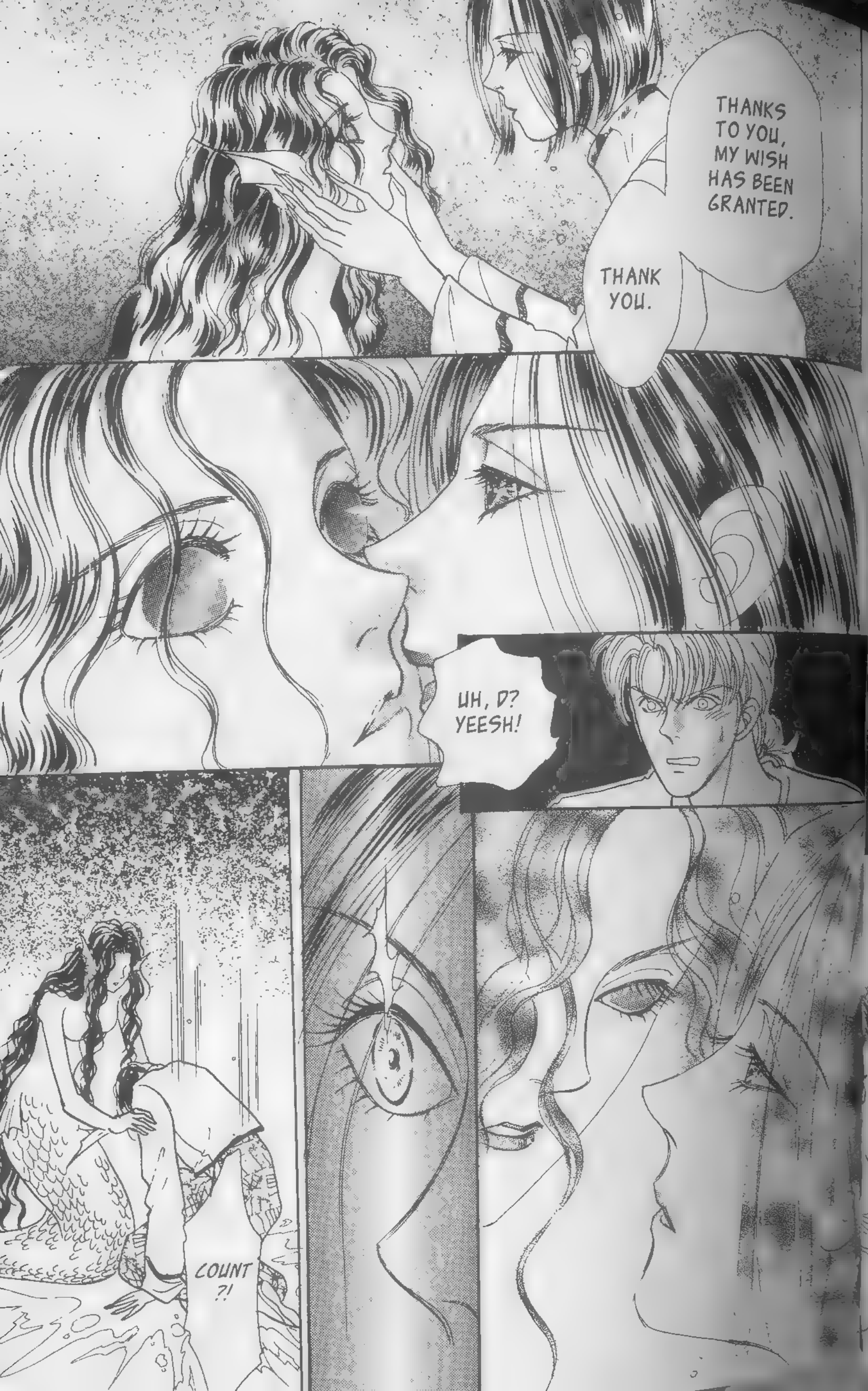

BIG BRO, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!
KYU!
WHAT NOW, CHRIS?
THE COUNT'S DISAPPEARED!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
HE BOARDED WITH ALL OF US, BUT NOW I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE!
HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE OVERBOARD AGAIN. EVEN D ISN'T THAT CRAZY.
AHOY, THERE!
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL OKAY!
WELL, I'LL BE...
FAYE!

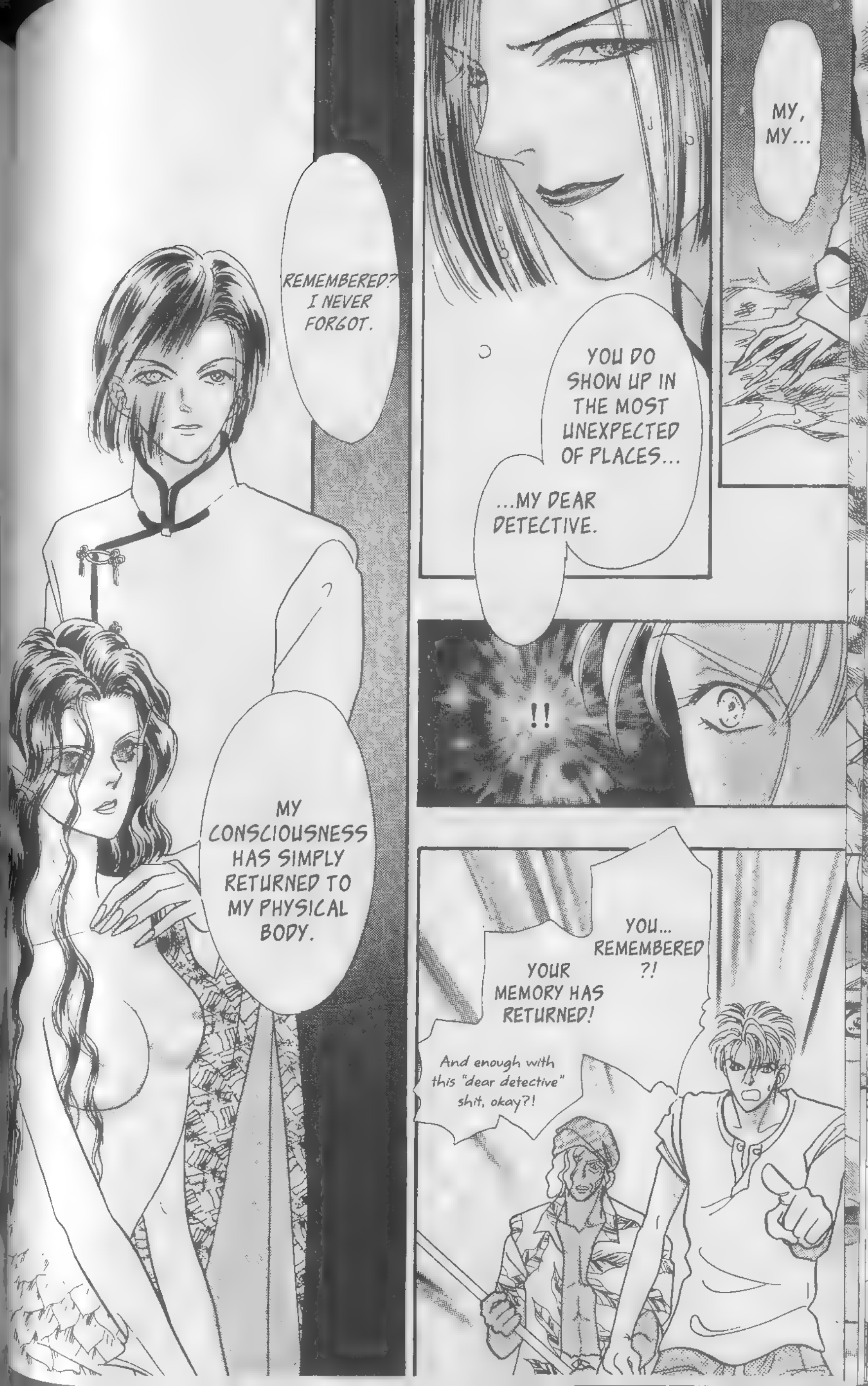

SO?
WHERE TO?
THAT UNINHABITED ISLAND.
YOU KNOW, THE ONE THE COUNT WASHED UP ON LAST TIME. I DON'T THINK HE WOUND UP THERE BY ACCIDENT. I THINK SHE TOOK HIM THERE.
SHE? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE MERMAID.
MERMAID...
YOUCH
THAT'S IT, OF COURSE.
I SAW THE MERMAID LAST NIGHT. SHE WAS WITH THE COUNT.
IT'S ALL STARTING TO COME BACK TO ME.
YOU SEE, IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU!
DISASTER STRIKES AFTER THE MERMAID APPEARS...
...AND MANY PEOPLE LOSE THEIR LIVES.
I'M NOT DEAD.

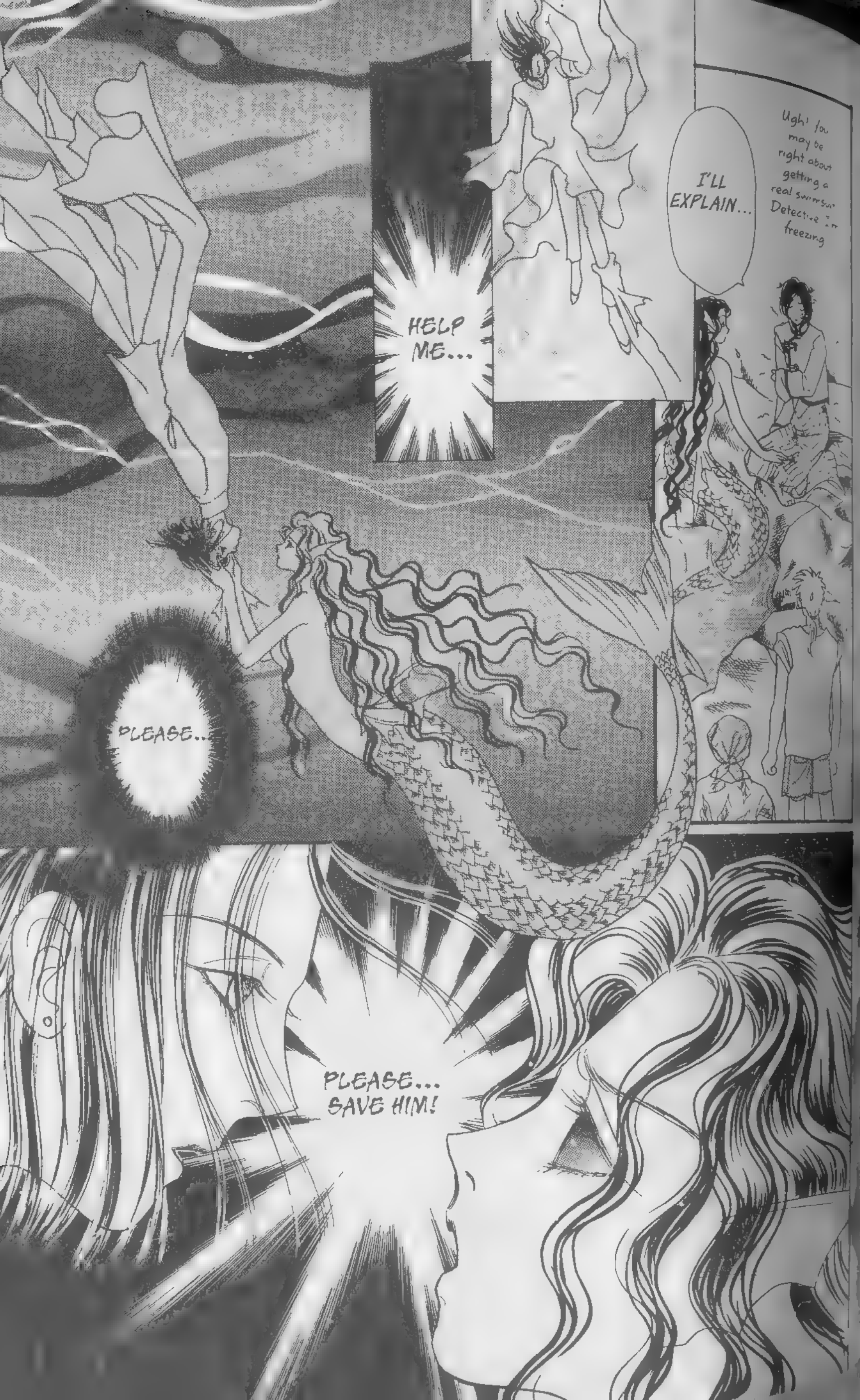

I DON'T THINK THIS MERMAID HAS EVER KILLED ANYBODY.
COUNT?!
HEY! ANYONE IN HERE?!

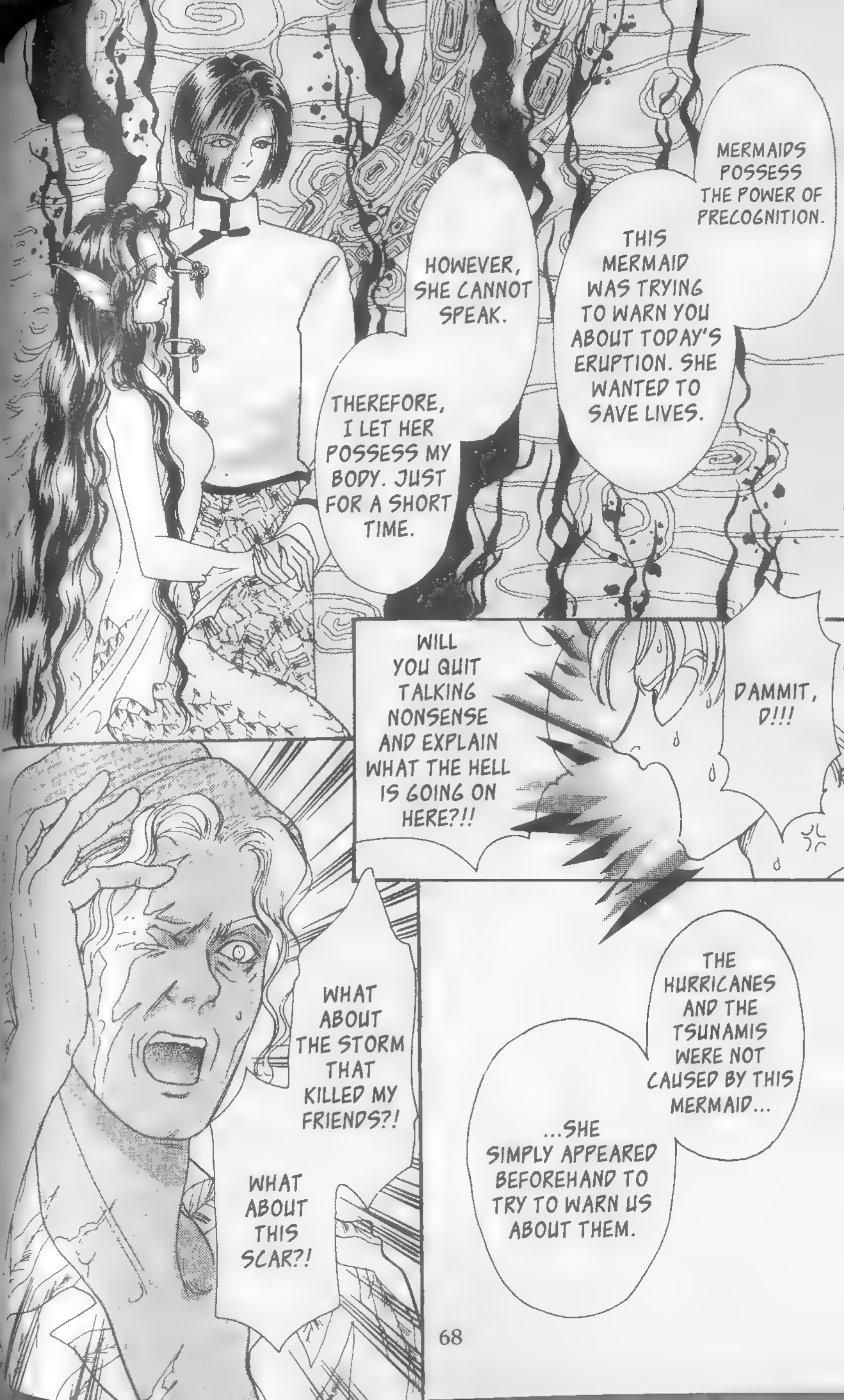

KRUUUY!
IT'S HER! IT'S THE MERMAID FROM LAST NIGHT!
SO I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU.
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO LEAVE YOURSELF EXPOSED LIKE THIS AT LOW TIDE.
KIIII!
YOU CAN'T SWIM OUT TILL HIGH TIDE. YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN.
KUOO!
HOLD ON A SEC, GRAMPS.
SHE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING.
TODAY, FINALLY...
...MY FRIENDS WILL HAVE THEIR VENGEANCE!
STOP!!
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!

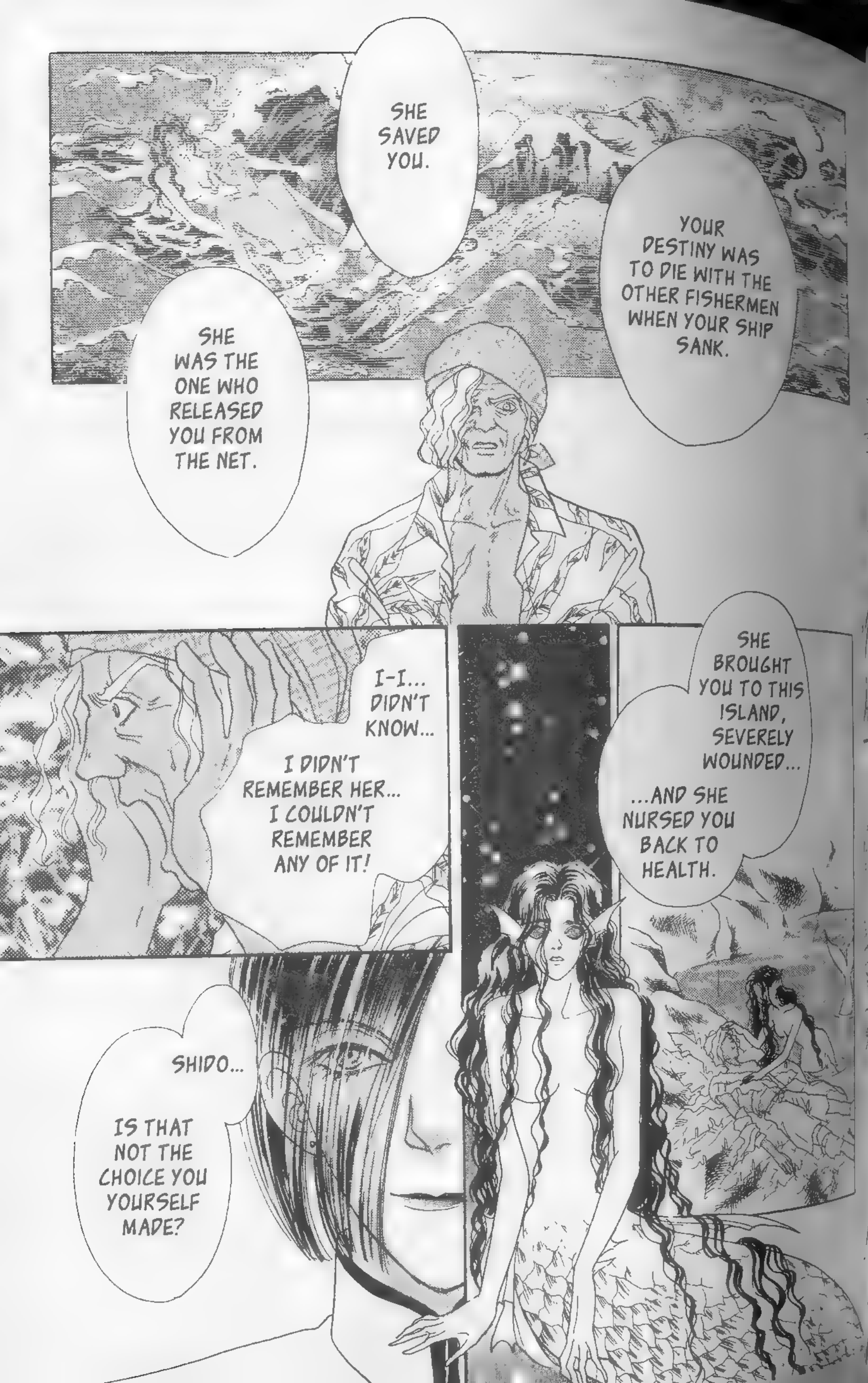

PLEASE, WAIT...
huff
huff
COUNT?
HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SWUM...
DO NOT TOUCH HER.
SO...
YOU'RE BOTH IN THIS TOGETHER? IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?
SHIDO...
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF... SHE HAS NOWHERE TO RUN. SO JUST WAIT A FEW MOMENTS AND HEAR US OUT.

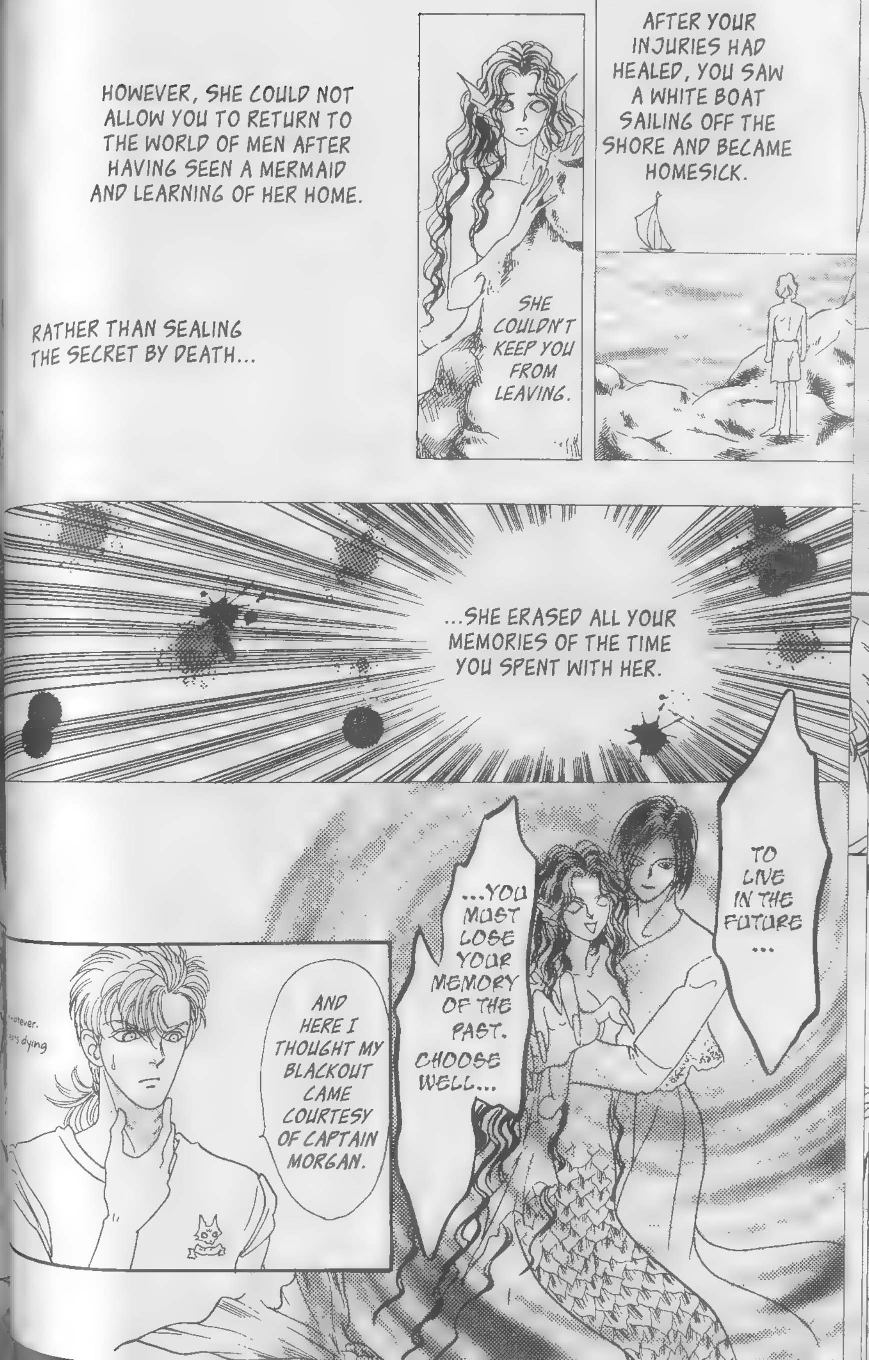

THANKS TO YOU, MY WISH HAS BEEN GRANTED.
THANK YOU.
UH, D? YEESH!
COUNT?!

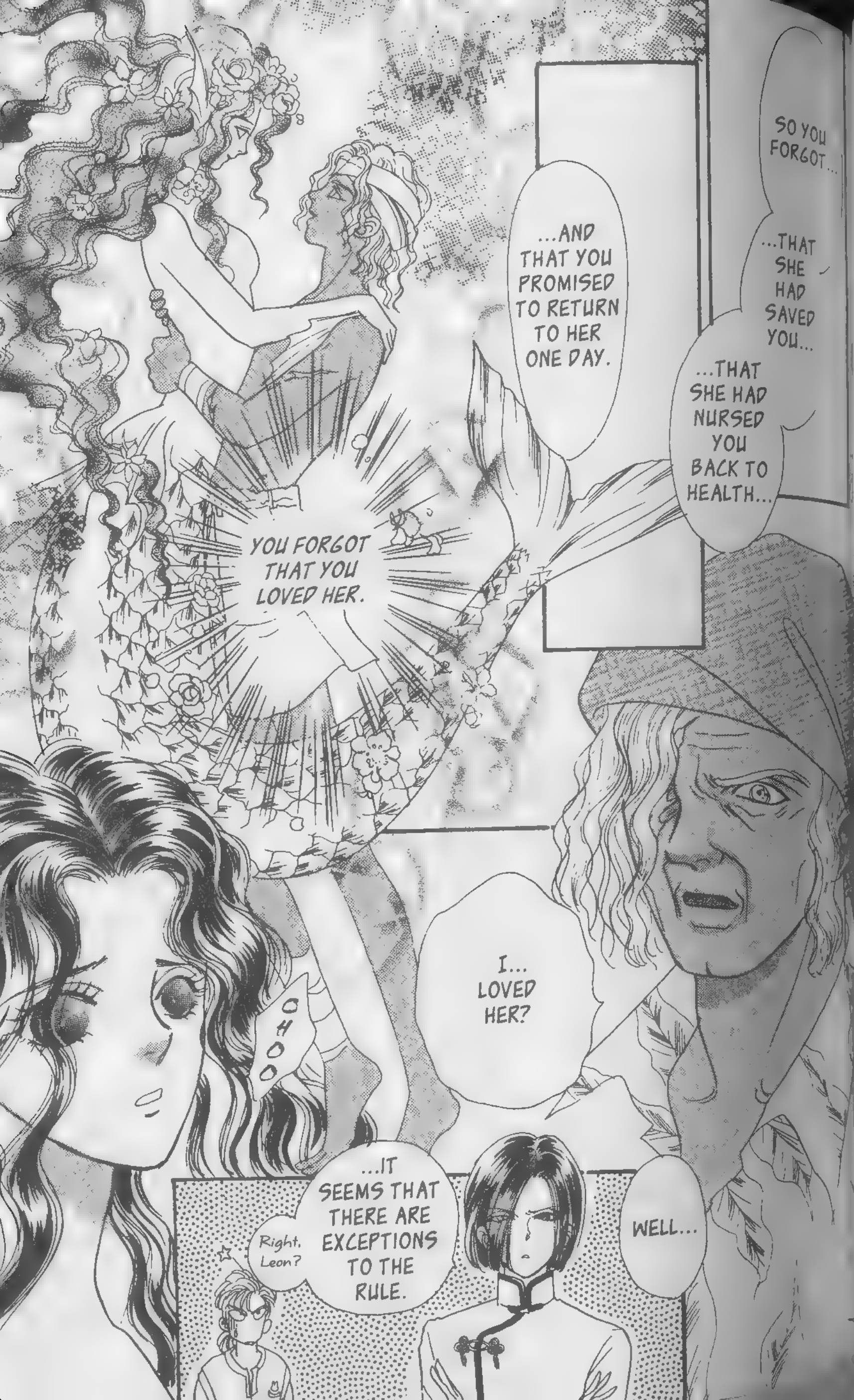

MY, MY...
YOU DO SHOW UP IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED OF PLACES...
...MY DEAR DETECTIVE.
!!
YOU... REMEMBERED ?!
YOUR MEMORY HAS RETURNED!
And enough with this "dear detective" shit, okay?!
REMEMBERED? I NEVER FORGOT.
MY CONSCIOUSNESS HAS SIMPLY RETURNED TO MY PHYSICAL BODY.

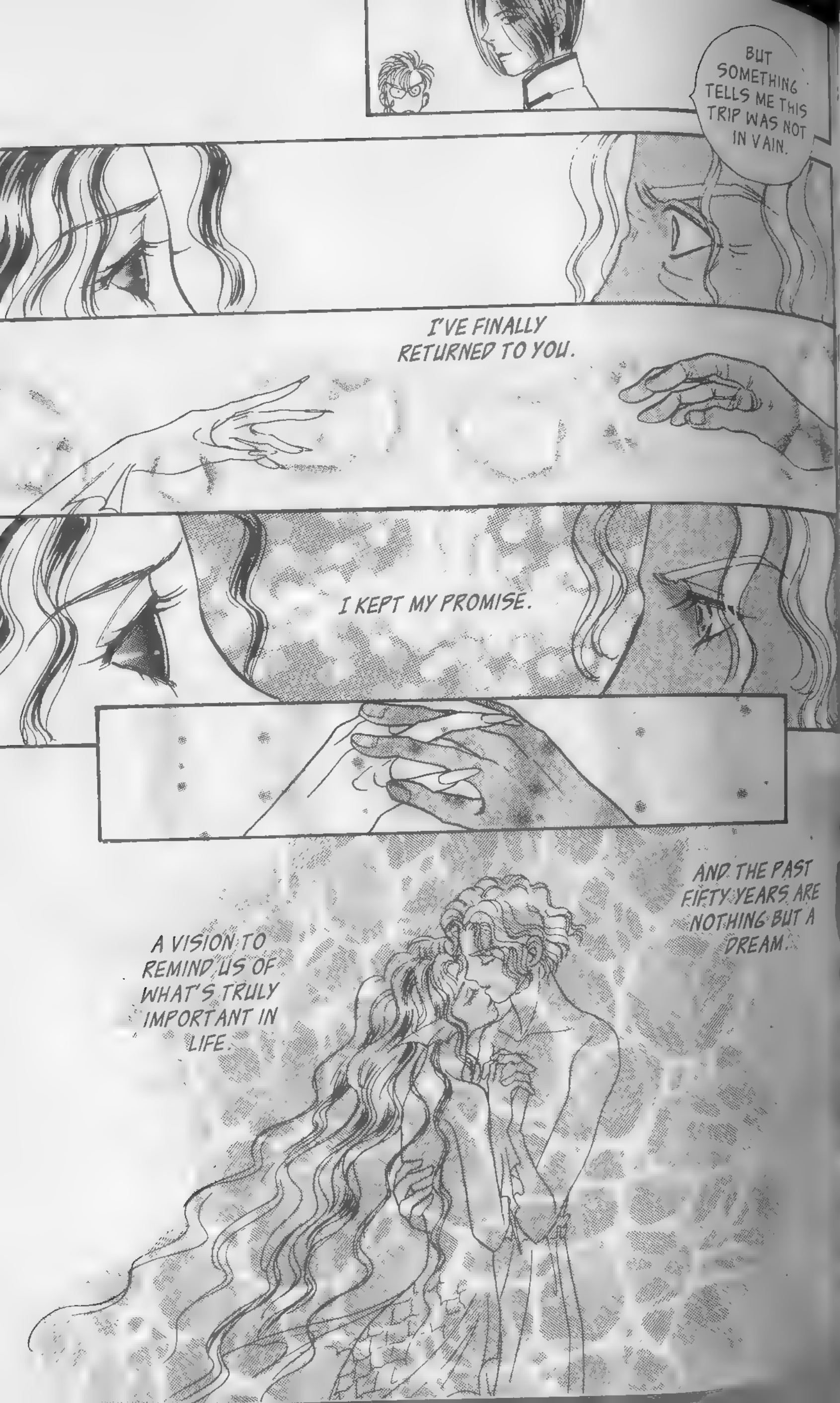

I'LL EXPLAIN...
Ugh! You may be right about getting a real swimsuit Detective I'm freezing
HELP ME...
PLEASE...
PLEASE... SAVE HIM!

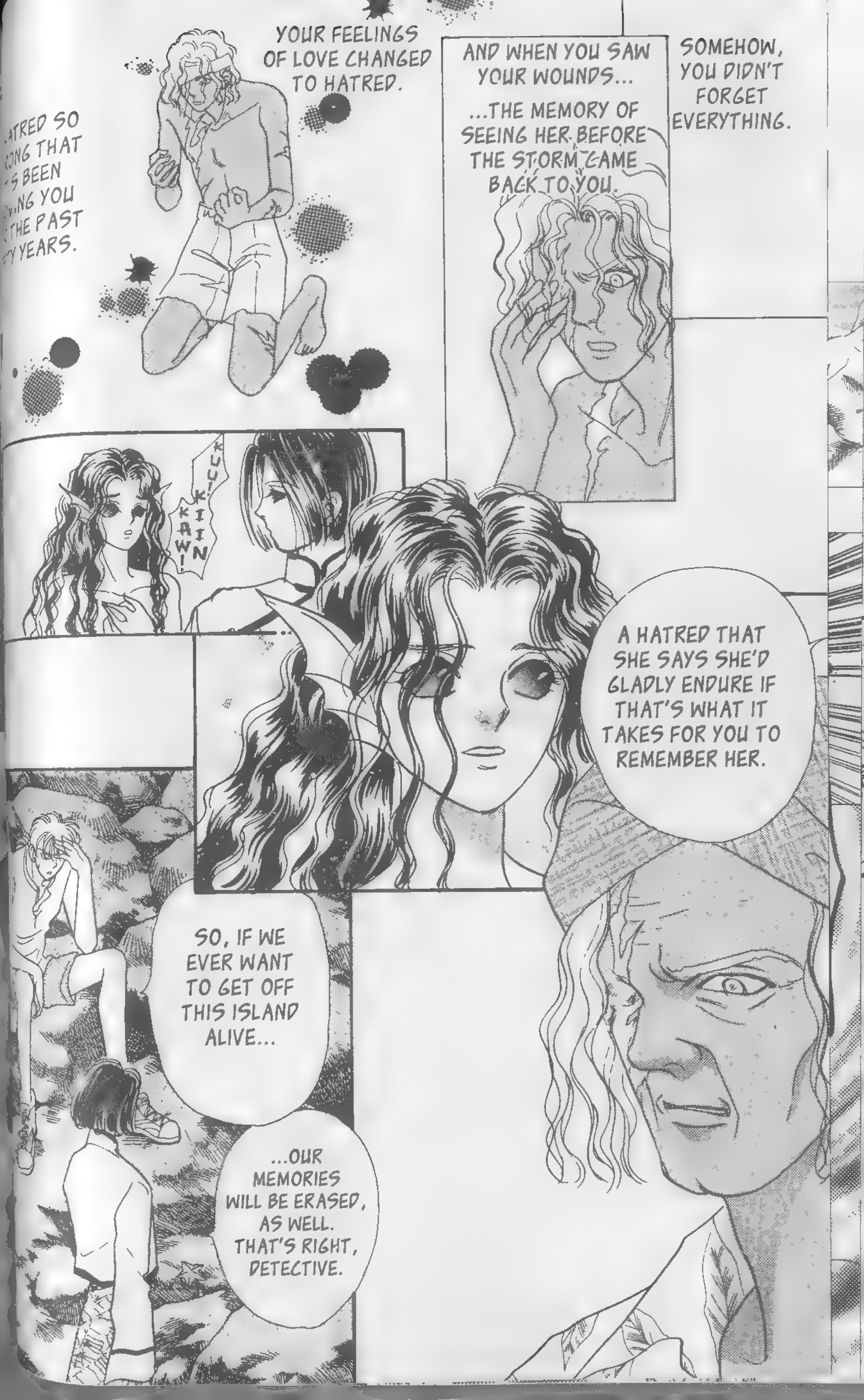

MERMAIDS POSSESS THE POWER OF PRECOGNITION.
THIS MERMAID WAS TRYING TO WARN YOU ABOUT TODAY'S ERUPTION. SHE WANTED TO SAVE LIVES.
HOWEVER, SHE CANNOT SPEAK.
THEREFORE, I LET HER POSSESS MY BODY. JUST FOR A SHORT TIME.
DAMMIT, D!!!
WILL YOU QUIT TALKING NONSENSE AND EXPLAIN WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!!
THE HURRICANES AND THE TSUNAMIS WERE NOT CAUSED BY THIS MERMAID...
...SHE SIMPLY APPEARED BEFOREHAND TO TRY TO WARN US ABOUT THEM.
WHAT ABOUT THE STORM THAT KILLED MY FRIENDS?!
WHAT ABOUT THIS SCAR?!

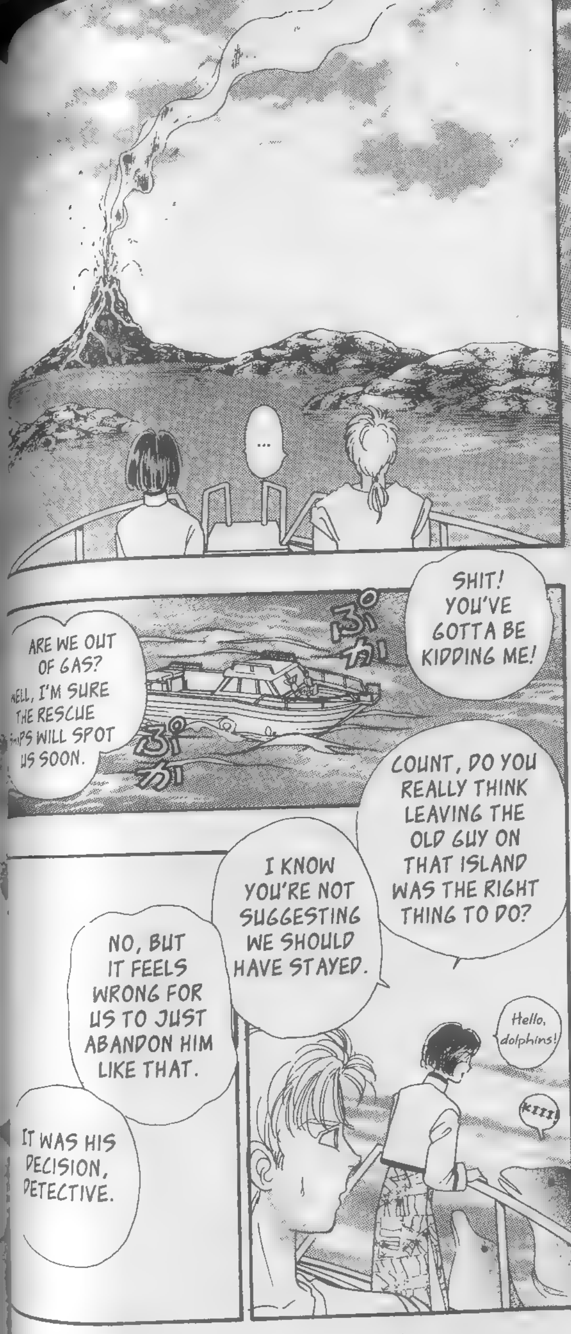

YOUR DESTINY WAS TO DIE WITH THE OTHER FISHERMEN WHEN YOUR SHIP SANK.
SHE SAVED YOU.
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO RELEASED YOU FROM THE NET.
SHE BROUGHT YOU TO THIS ISLAND, SEVERELY WOUNDED...
...AND SHE NURSED YOU BACK TO HEALTH.
I-I... DIDN'T KNOW...
I DIDN'T REMEMBER HER... I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT!
SHIDO...
IS THAT NOT THE CHOICE YOU YOURSELF MADE?

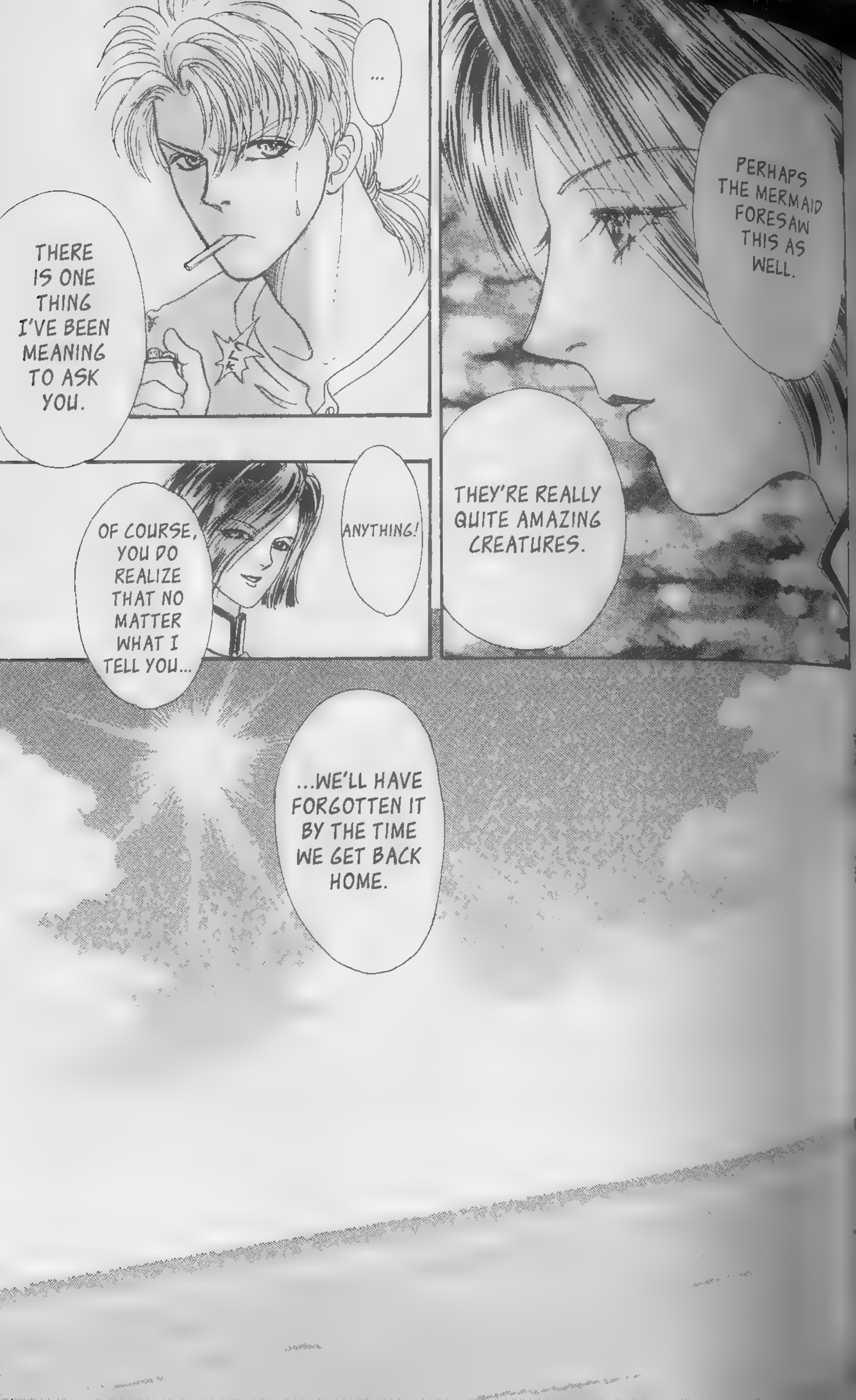

AFTER YOUR INJURIES HAD HEALED, YOU SAW A WHITE BOAT SAILING OFF THE SHORE AND BECAME HOMESICK.
SHE COULDN'T KEEP YOU FROM LEAVING.
HOWEVER, SHE COULD NOT ALLOW YOU TO RETURN TO THE WORLD OF MEN AFTER HAVING SEEN A MERMAID AND LEARNING OF HER HOME.
RATHER THAN SEALING THE SECRET BY DEATH...
...SHE ERASED ALL YOUR MEMORIES OF THE TIME YOU SPENT WITH HER.
TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE...
...YOU MUST LOSE YOUR MEMORY OF THE PAST. CHOOSE WELL...
AND HERE I THOUGHT MY BLACKOUT CAME COURTESY OF CAPTAIN MORGAN.
natever.
t's dying

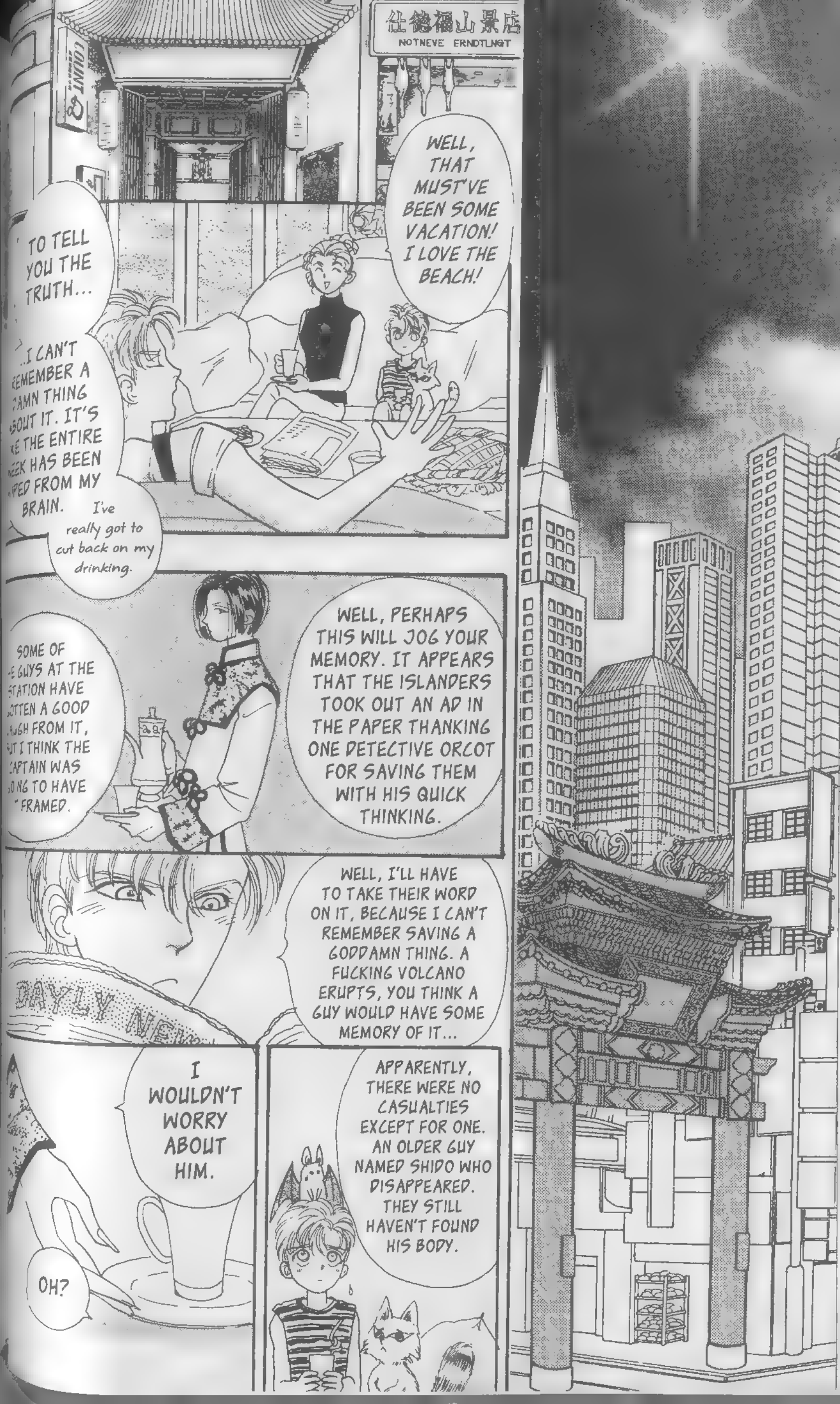

SO YOU FORGOT...
...THAT SHE HAD SAVED YOU...
...THAT SHE HAD NURSED YOU BACK TO HEALTH...
...AND THAT YOU PROMISED TO RETURN TO HER ONE DAY.
YOU FORGOT THAT YOU LOVED HER.
I... LOVED HER?
WELL...
...IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE.
Right, Leon?
CHOO

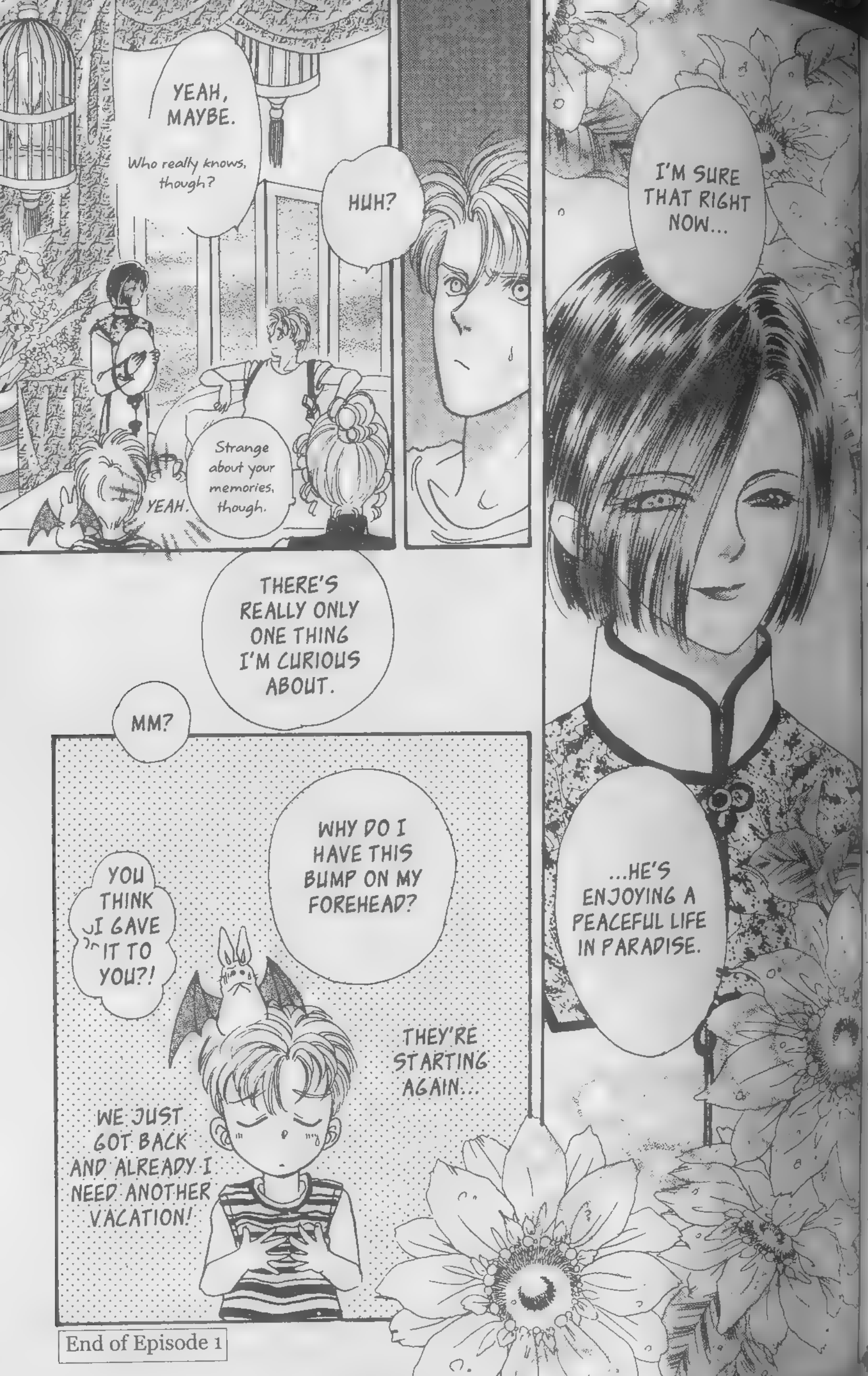

BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS TRIP WAS NOT IN VAIN.
I'VE FINALLY RETURNED TO YOU.
I KEPT MY PROMISE.
AND THE PAST FIFTY YEARS ARE NOTHING BUT A DREAM.
A VISION TO REMIND US OF WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT IN LIFE.


ATRED SO ONG THAT 'S BEEN ING YOU THE PAST Y YEARS.
YOUR FEELINGS OF LOVE CHANGED TO HATRED.
AND WHEN YOU SAW YOUR WOUNDS...
...THE MEMORY OF SEEING HER BEFORE THE STORM CAME BACK TO YOU.
SOMEHOW, YOU DIDN'T FORGET EVERYTHING.
A HATRED THAT SHE SAYS SHE'D GLADLY ENDURE IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES FOR YOU TO REMEMBER HER.
SO, IF WE EVER WANT TO GET OFF THIS ISLAND ALIVE...
...OUR MEMORIES WILL BE ERASED, AS WELL. THAT'S RIGHT, DETECTIVE.

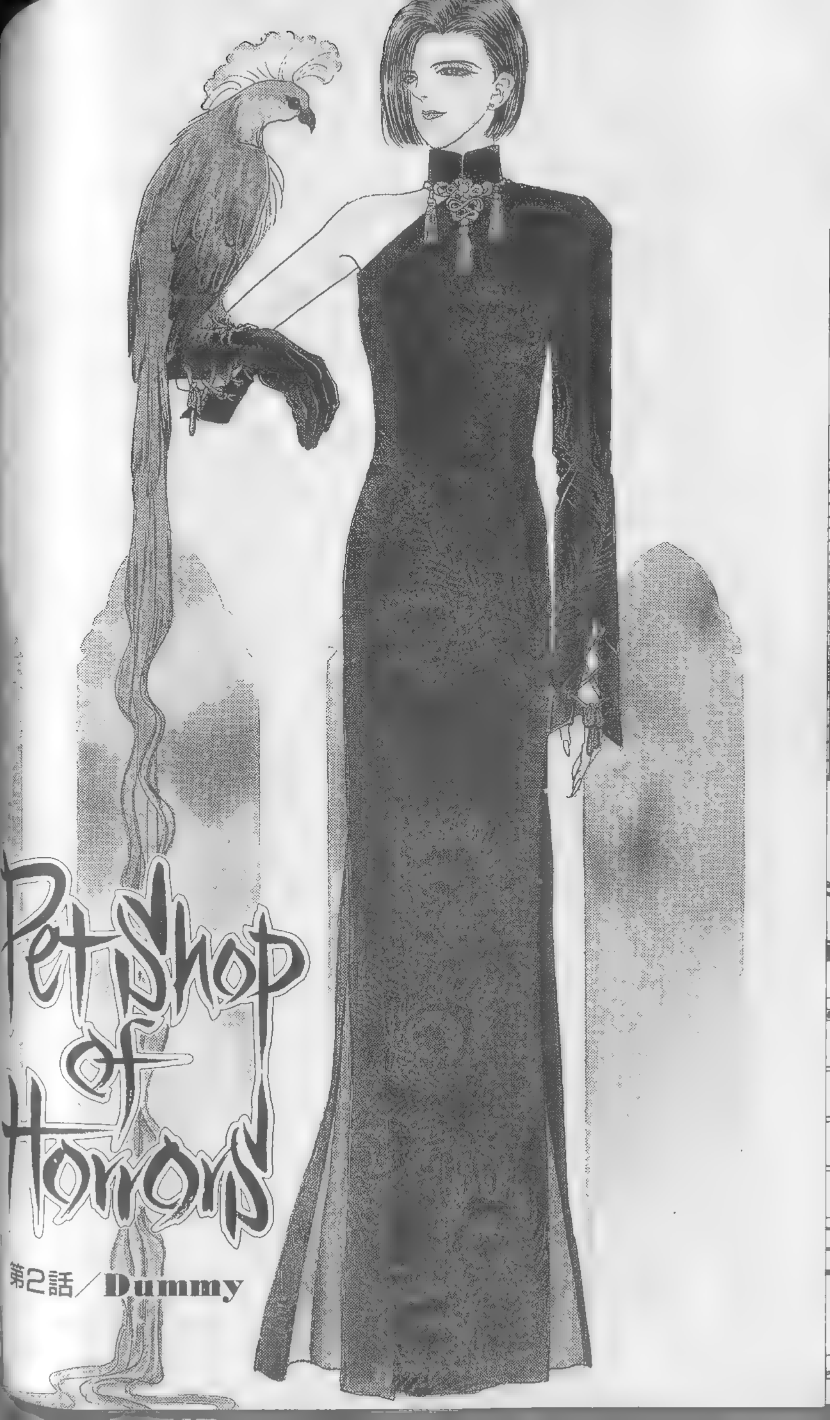

...
SHIT! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
ARE WE OUT OF GAS? WELL, I'M SURE THE RESCUE SHIPS WILL SPOT US SOON.
ぷか
ぷか
COUNT, DO YOU REALLY THINK LEAVING THE OLD GUY ON THAT ISLAND WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED.
NO, BUT IT FEELS WRONG FOR US TO JUST ABANDON HIM LIKE THAT.
Hello, dolphins!
KIIII
IT WAS HIS DECISION, DETECTIVE.


PERHAPS THE MERMAID FORESAW THIS AS WELL.
THEY'RE REALLY QUITE AMAZING CREATURES.
...
THERE IS ONE THING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.
ANYTHING!
OF COURSE, YOU DO REALIZE THAT NO MATTER WHAT I TELL YOU...
...WE'LL HAVE FORGOTTEN IT BY THE TIME WE GET BACK HOME.


NOTNEVE ERNDTLNGT
COUNT D
WELL, THAT MUST'VE BEEN SOME VACATION! I LOVE THE BEACH!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
..I CAN'T EMEMBER A AMN THING BOUT IT. IT'S E THE ENTIRE EEK HAS BEEN PED FROM MY BRAIN.
I've really got to cut back on my drinking.
WELL, PERHAPS THIS WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY. IT APPEARS THAT THE ISLANDERS TOOK OUT AN AD IN THE PAPER THANKING ONE DETECTIVE ORCOT FOR SAVING THEM WITH HIS QUICK THINKING.
SOME OF E GUYS AT THE STATION HAVE OTTEN A GOOD UGH FROM IT, T I THINK THE APTAIN WAS ONG TO HAVE FRAMED.
WELL, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEIR WORD ON IT, BECAUSE I CAN'T REMEMBER SAVING A GODDAMN THING. A FUCKING VOLCANO ERUPTS, YOU THINK A GUY WOULD HAVE SOME MEMORY OF IT...
DAYLY NEW
APPARENTLY, THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES EXCEPT FOR ONE. AN OLDER GUY NAMED SHIDO WHO DISAPPEARED. THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HIS BODY.
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
OH?

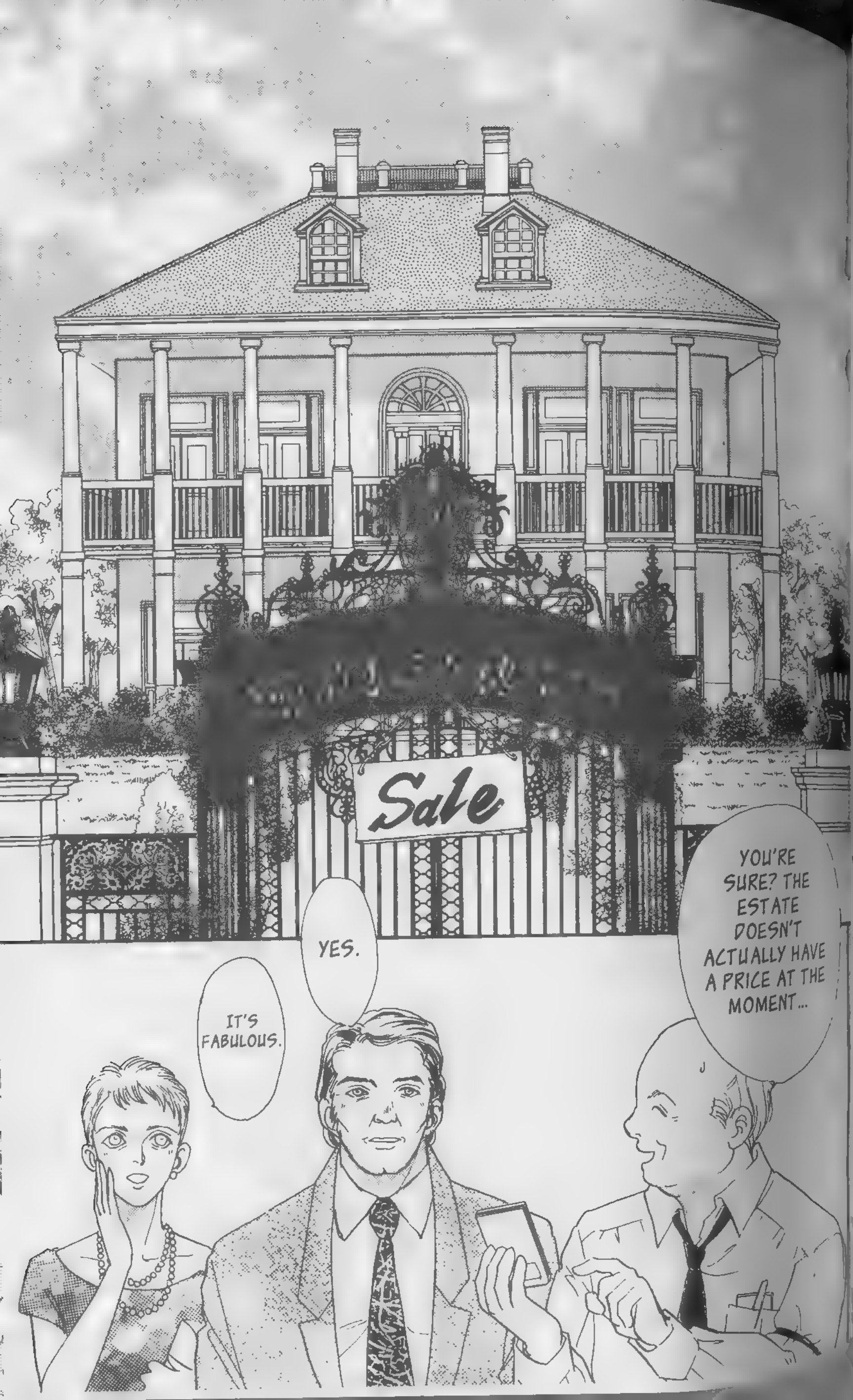

I'M SURE THAT RIGHT NOW...
...HE'S ENJOYING A PEACEFUL LIFE IN PARADISE.
HUH?
YEAH, MAYBE.
Who really knows, though?
Strange about your memories, though.
YEAH.
THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE THING I'M CURIOUS ABOUT.
MM?
WHY DO I HAVE THIS BUMP ON MY FOREHEAD?
YOU THINK I GAVE IT TO YOU?!
THEY'RE STARTING AGAIN...
WE JUST GOT BACK AND ALREADY I NEED ANOTHER VACATION!

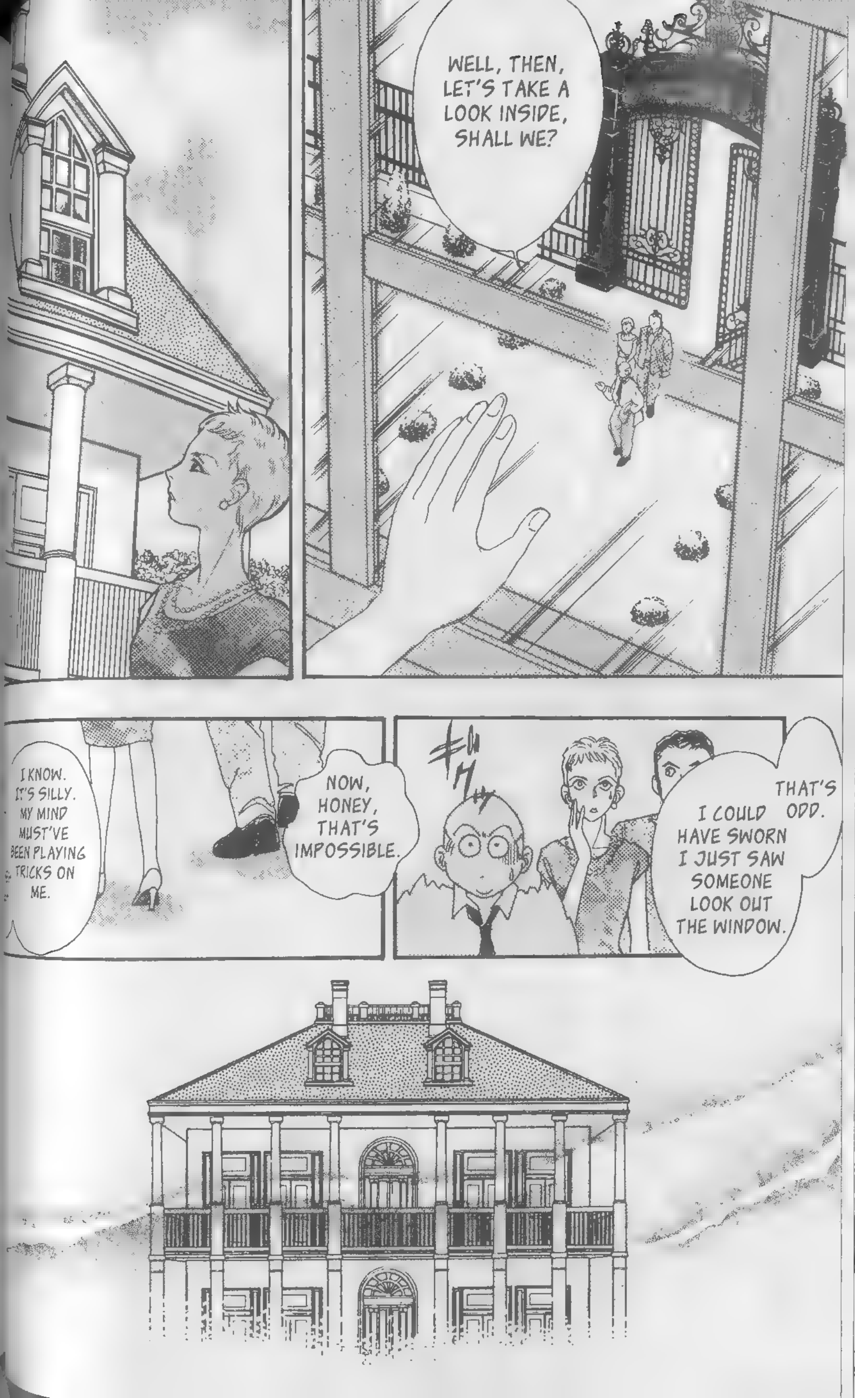
End of Episode 1

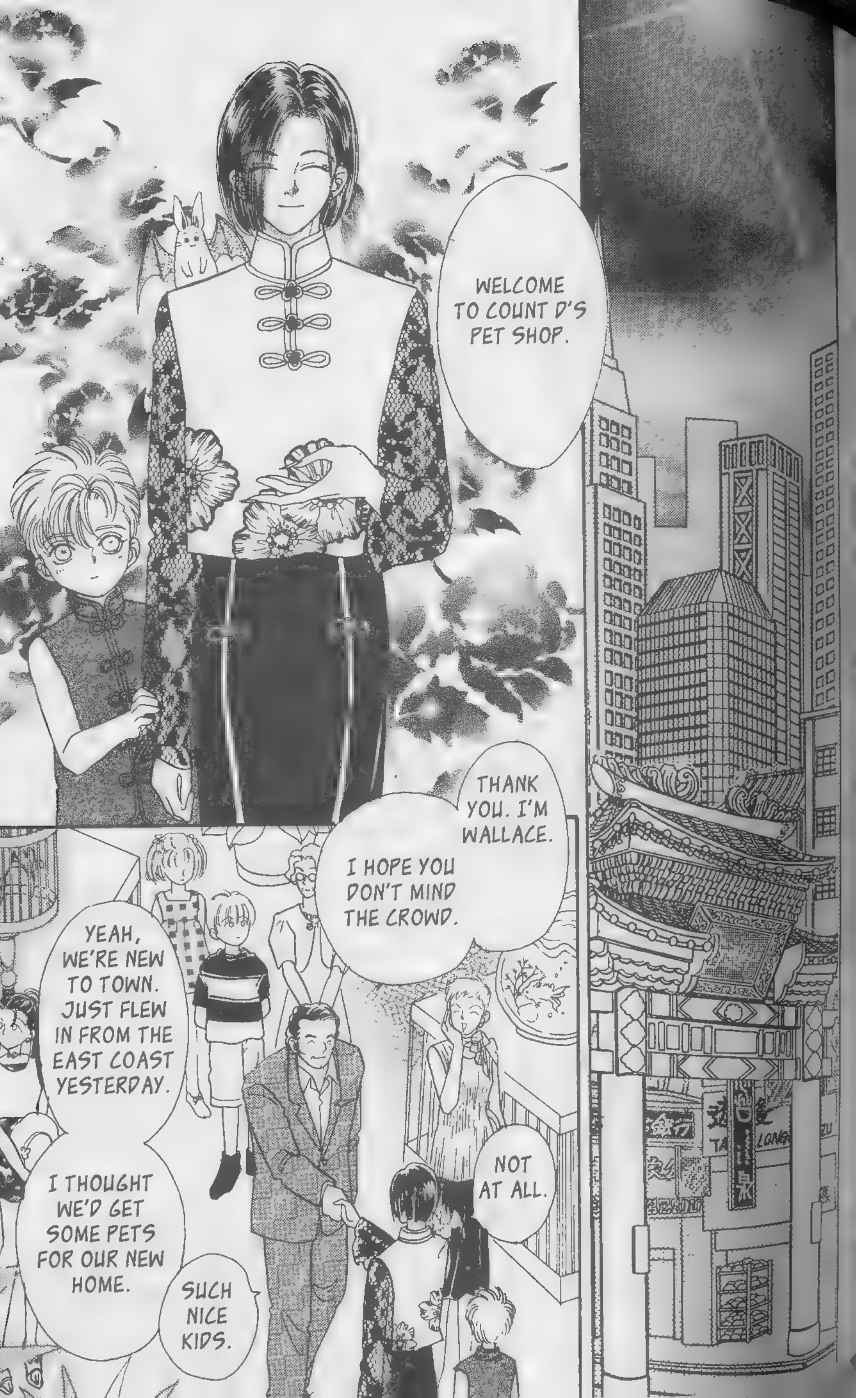


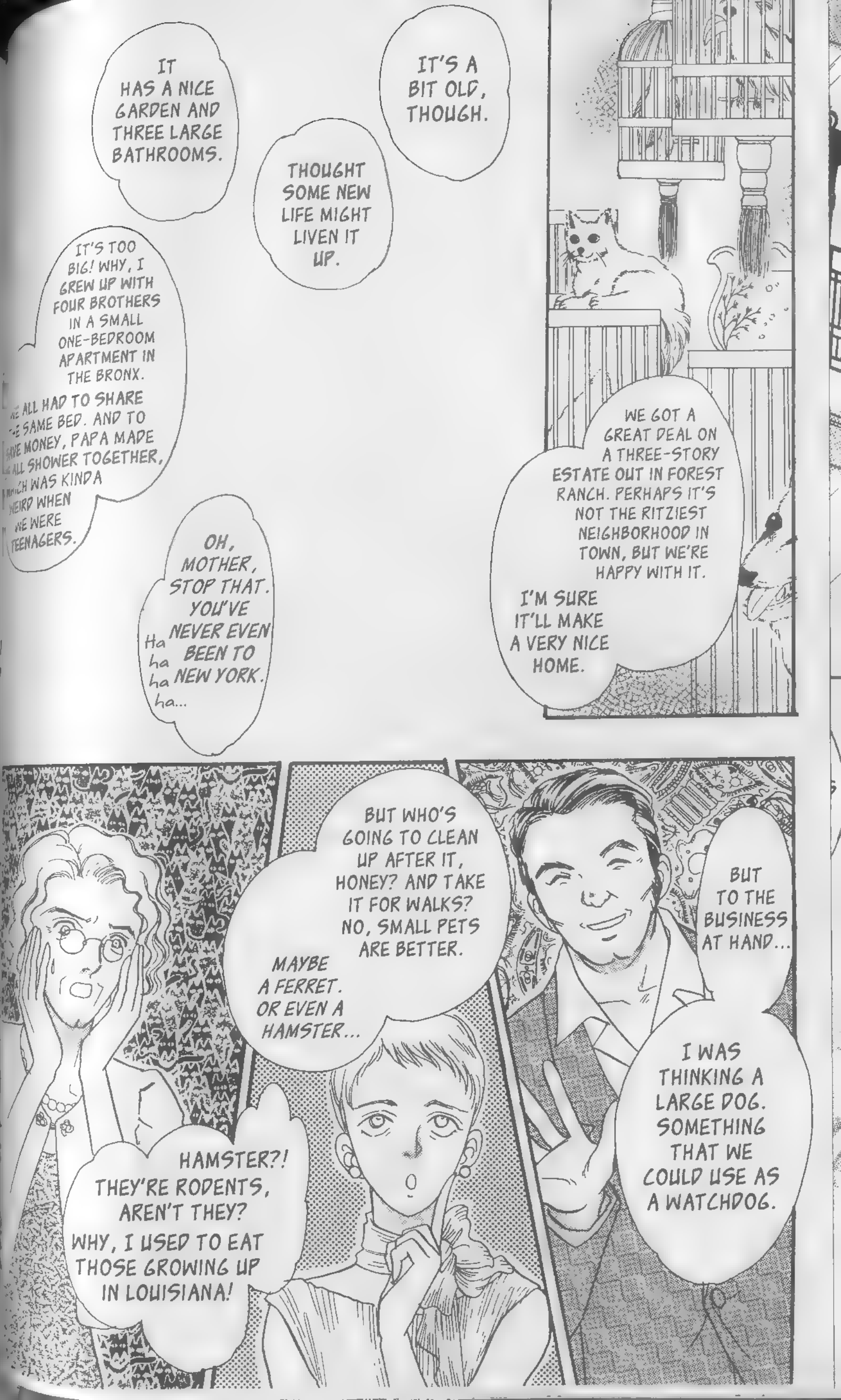
Pet Shop of Horrors

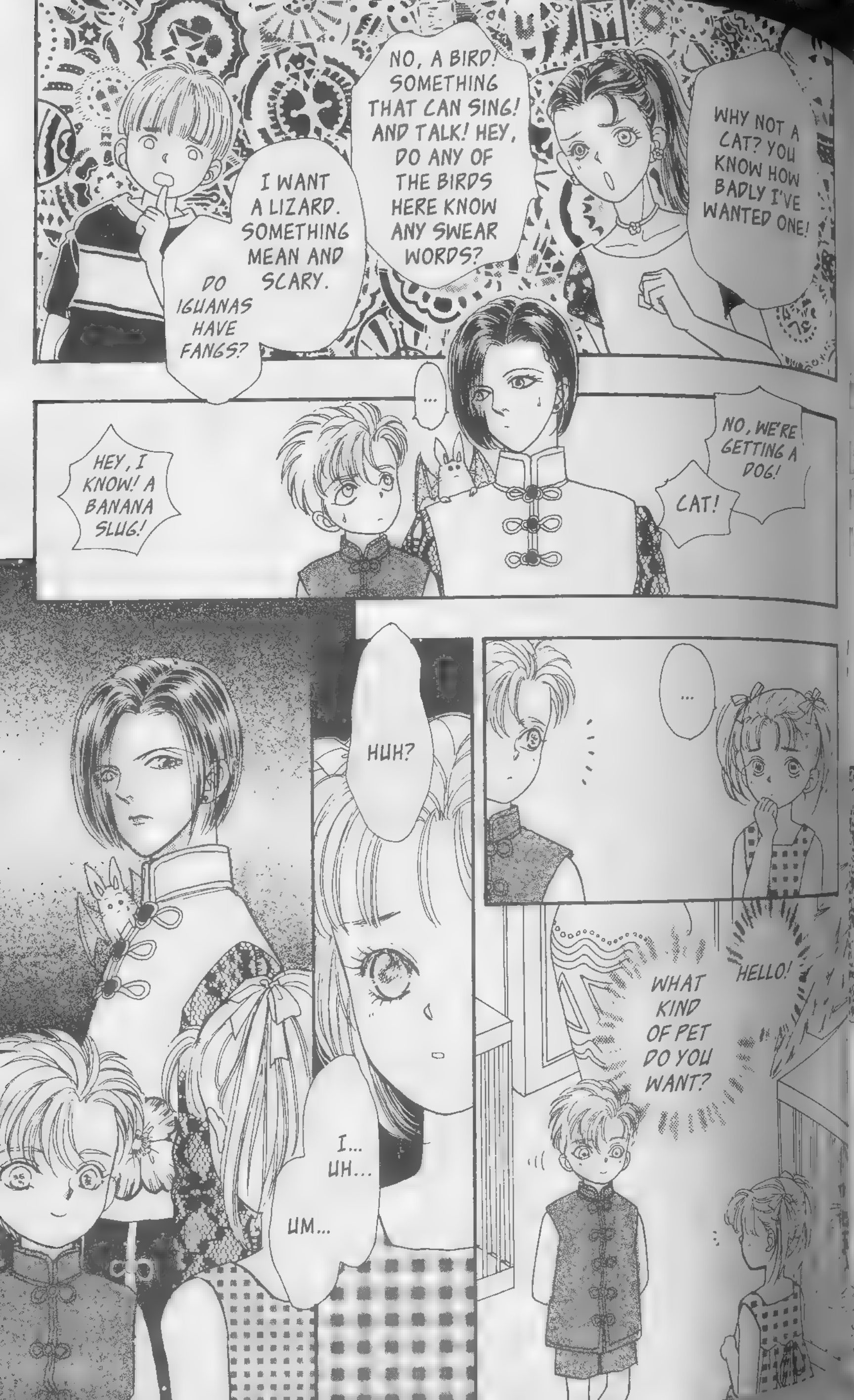
第2話／Dummy

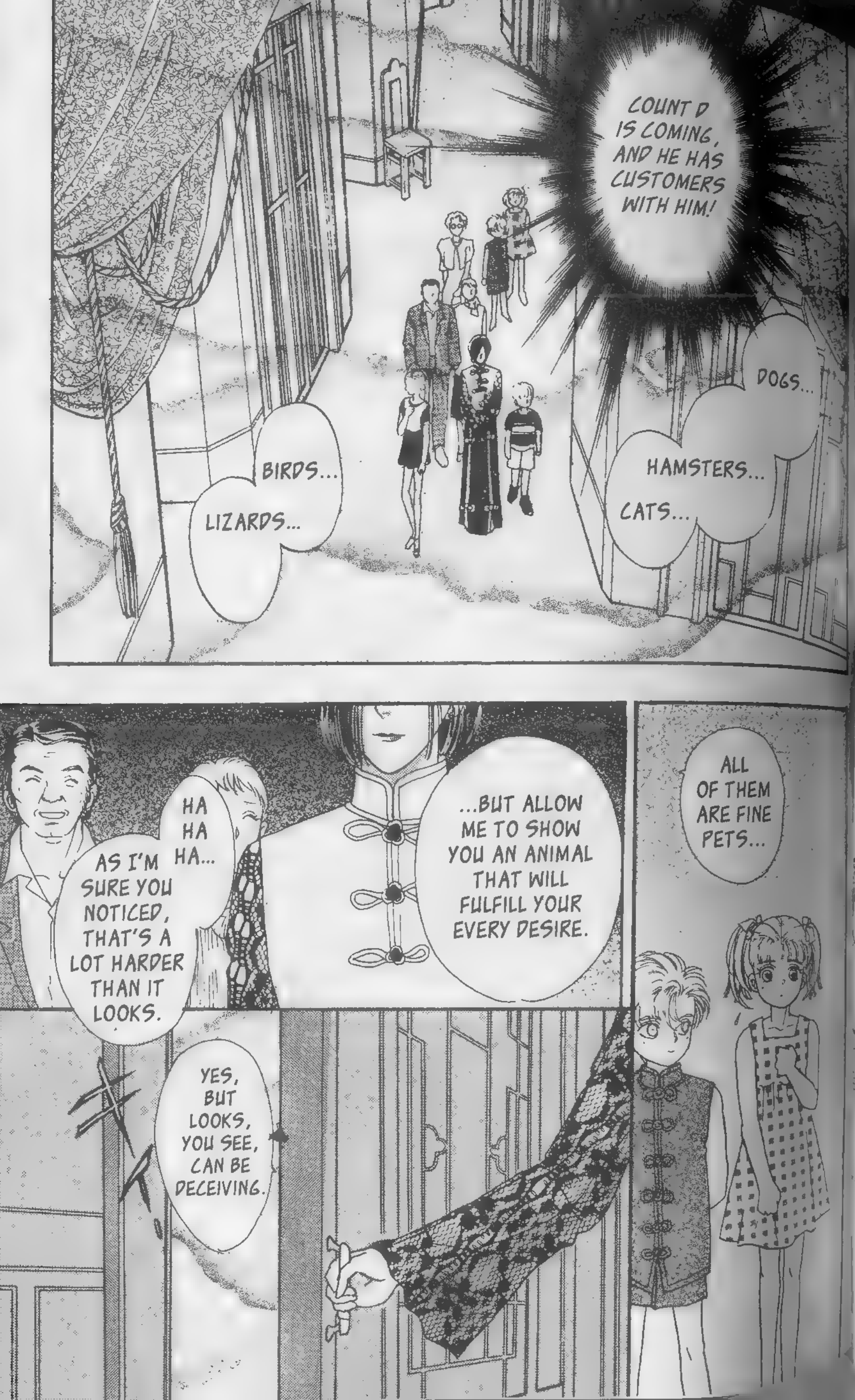

Sale
YOU'RE SURE? THE ESTATE DOESN'T ACTUALLY HAVE A PRICE AT THE MOMENT...
YES.
IT'S FABULOUS.

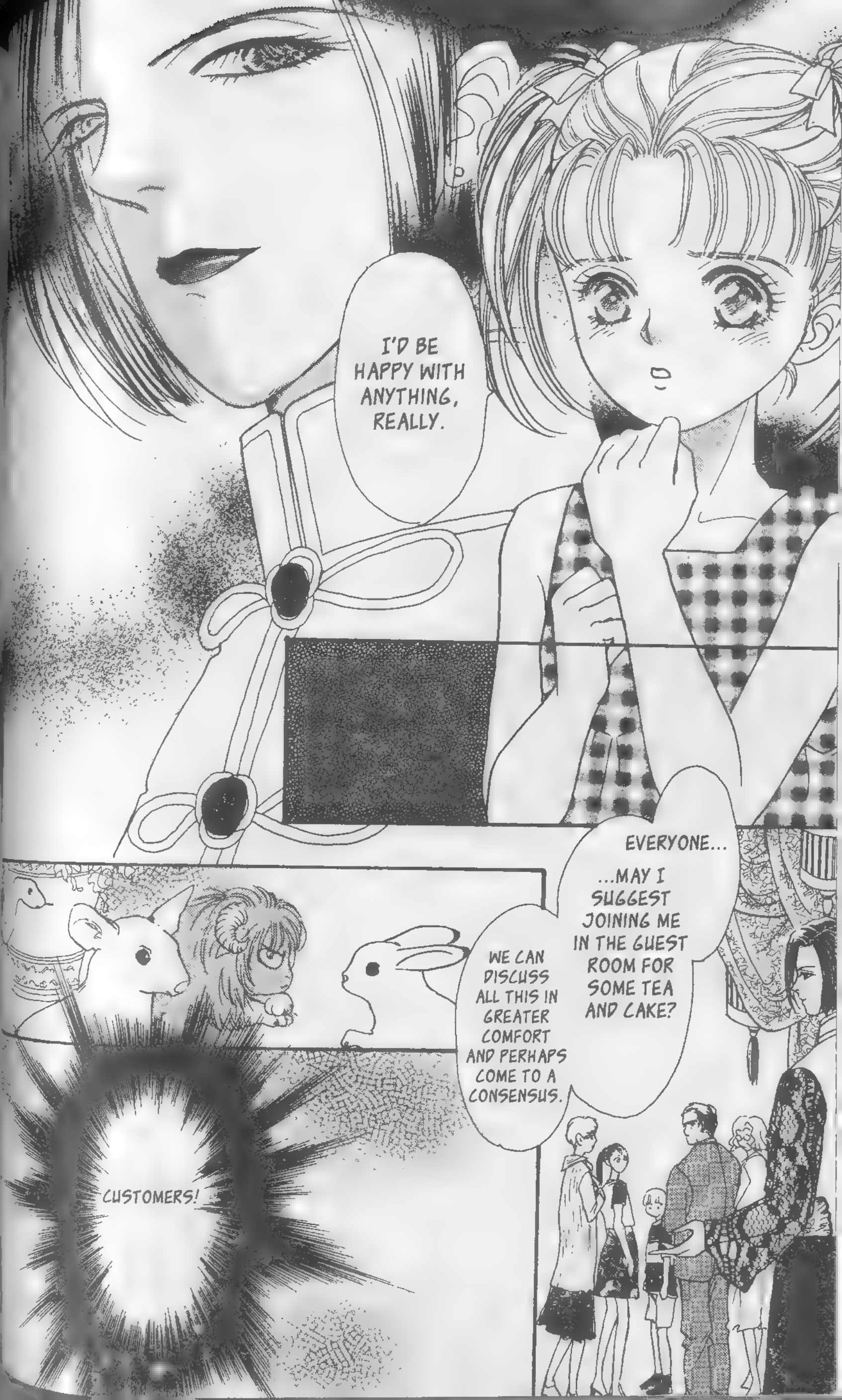

WELL, THEN, LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE, SHALL WE?
I COULD HAVE SWORN I JUST SAW SOMEONE LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.
THAT'S ODD.
NOW, HONEY, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I KNOW. IT'S SILLY. MY MIND MUST'VE BEEN PLAYING TRICKS ON ME.

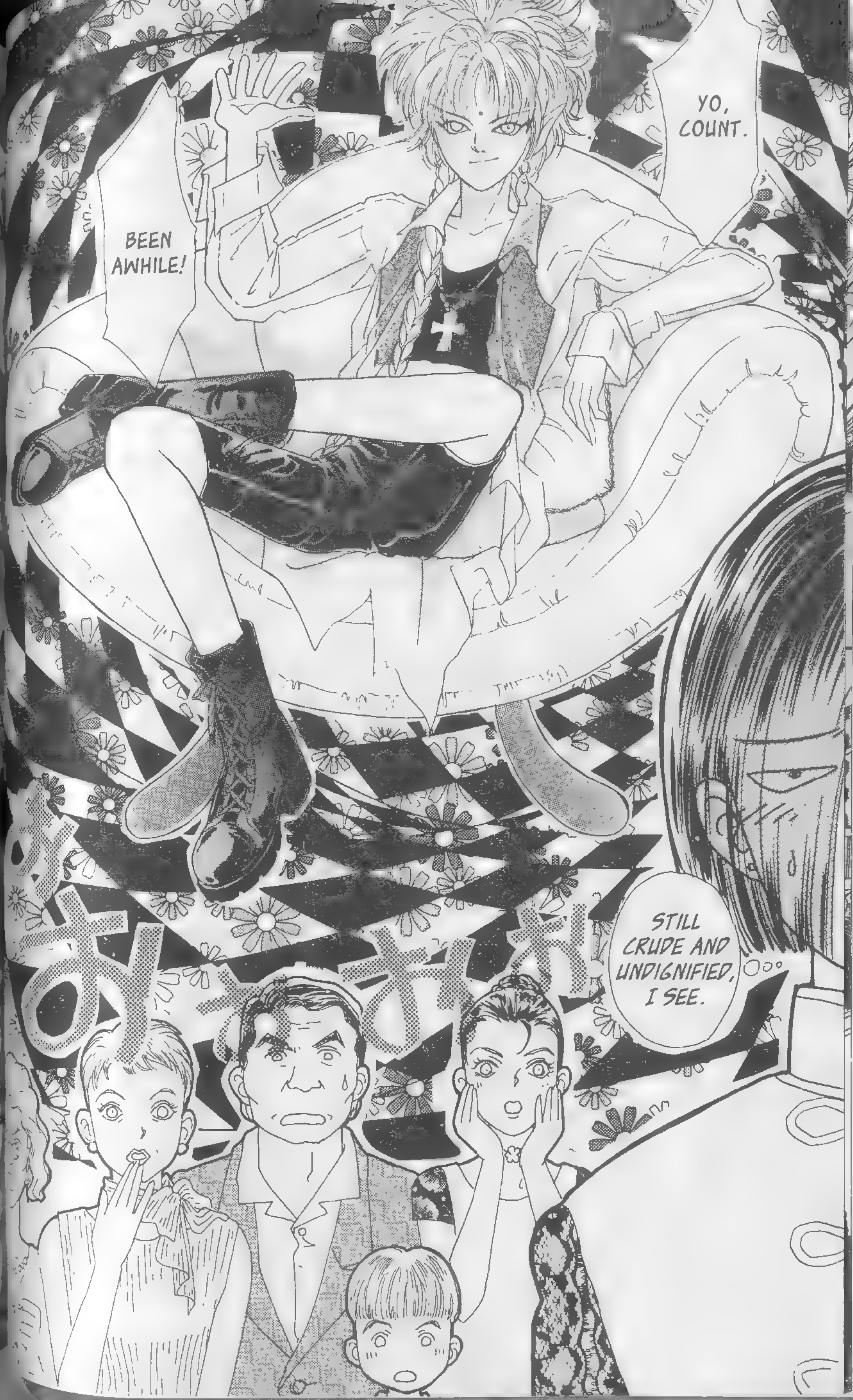

WELCOME TO COUNT D'S PET SHOP.
THANK YOU. I'M WALLACE.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE CROWD.
YEAH, WE'RE NEW TO TOWN. JUST FLEW IN FROM THE EAST COAST YESTERDAY.
NOT AT ALL.
I THOUGHT WE'D GET SOME PETS FOR OUR NEW HOME.
SUCH NICE KIDS.

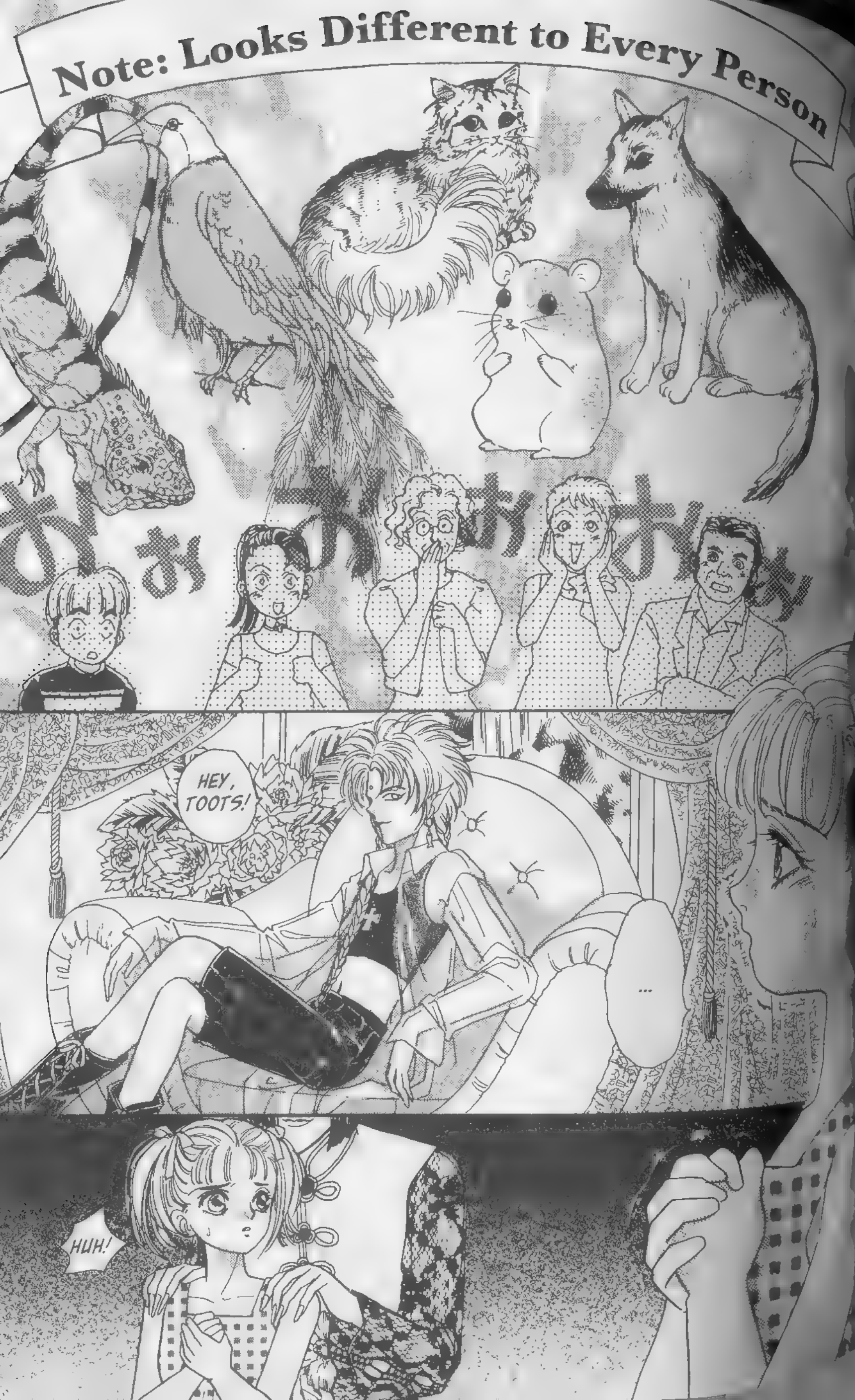

WE GOT A GREAT DEAL ON A THREE-STORY ESTATE OUT IN FOREST RANCH. PERHAPS IT'S NOT THE RITZIEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN TOWN, BUT WE'RE HAPPY WITH IT.
I'M SURE IT'LL MAKE A VERY NICE HOME.
IT'S A BIT OLD, THOUGH.
THOUGHT SOME NEW LIFE MIGHT LIVEN IT UP.
IT HAS A NICE GARDEN AND THREE LARGE BATHROOMS.
IT'S TOO BIG! WHY, I GREW UP WITH FOUR BROTHERS IN A SMALL ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN THE BRONX.
WE ALL HAD TO SHARE THE SAME BED. AND TO SAVE MONEY, PAPA MADE US ALL SHOWER TOGETHER, WHICH WAS KINDA WEIRD WHEN WE WERE TEENAGERS.
OH, MOTHER, STOP THAT. YOU'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO NEW YORK.
Ha ha ha ha...
BUT TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND...
I WAS THINKING A LARGE DOG. SOMETHING THAT WE COULD USE AS A WATCHDOG.
BUT WHO'S GOING TO CLEAN UP AFTER IT, HONEY? AND TAKE IT FOR WALKS? NO, SMALL PETS ARE BETTER.
MAYBE A FERRET. OR EVEN A HAMSTER...
HAMSTER?! THEY'RE RODENTS, AREN'T THEY? WHY, I USED TO EAT THOSE GROWING UP IN LOUISIANA!

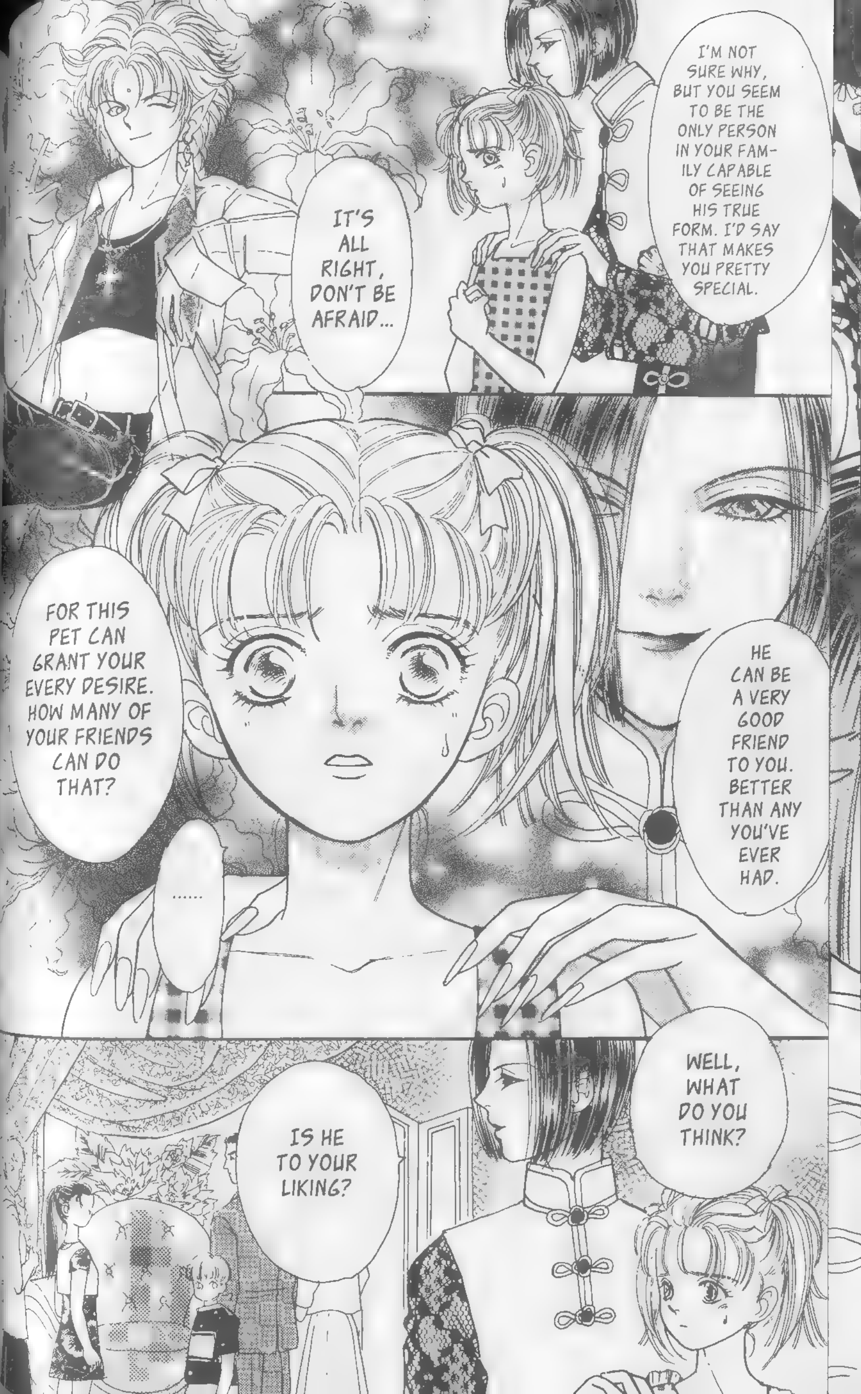

WHY NOT A CAT? YOU KNOW HOW BADLY I'VE WANTED ONE!
NO, A BIRD! SOMETHING THAT CAN SING! AND TALK! HEY, DO ANY OF THE BIRDS HERE KNOW ANY SWEAR WORDS?
I WANT A LIZARD. SOMETHING MEAN AND SCARY.
DO IGUANAS HAVE FANGS?
NO, WE'RE GETTING A DOG!
CAT!
...
HEY, I KNOW! A BANANA SLUG!
...
HELLO!
WHAT KIND OF PET DO YOU WANT?
HUH?
I... UH...
UM...

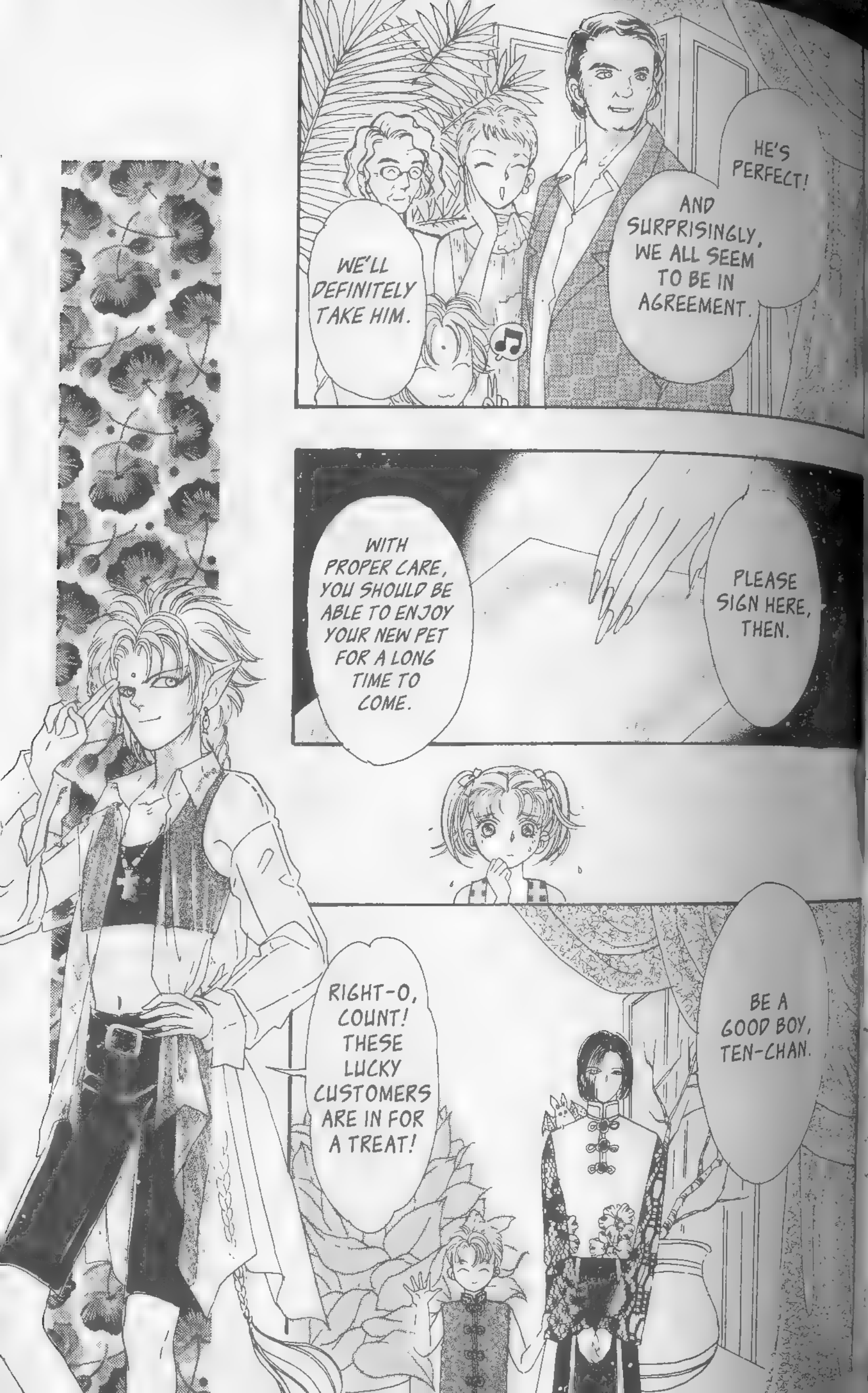

COUNT D IS COMING, AND HE HAS CUSTOMERS WITH HIM!
DOGS...
HAMSTERS...
CATS...
BIRDS...
LIZARDS...
ALL OF THEM ARE FINE PETS...
...BUT ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU AN ANIMAL THAT WILL FULFILL YOUR EVERY DESIRE.
HA HA HA...
AS I'M SURE YOU NOTICED, THAT'S A LOT HARDER THAN IT LOOKS.
YES, BUT LOOKS, YOU SEE, CAN BE DECEIVING.

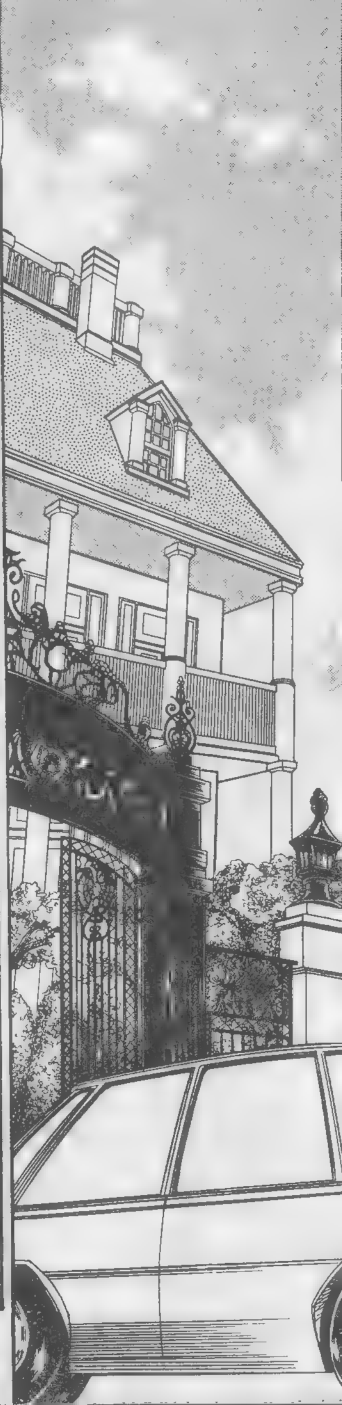

I'D BE HAPPY WITH ANYTHING, REALLY.
EVERYONE...
...MAY I SUGGEST JOINING ME IN THE GUEST ROOM FOR SOME TEA AND CAKE?
WE CAN DISCUSS ALL THIS IN GREATER COMFORT AND PERHAPS COME TO A CONSENSUS.
CUSTOMERS!

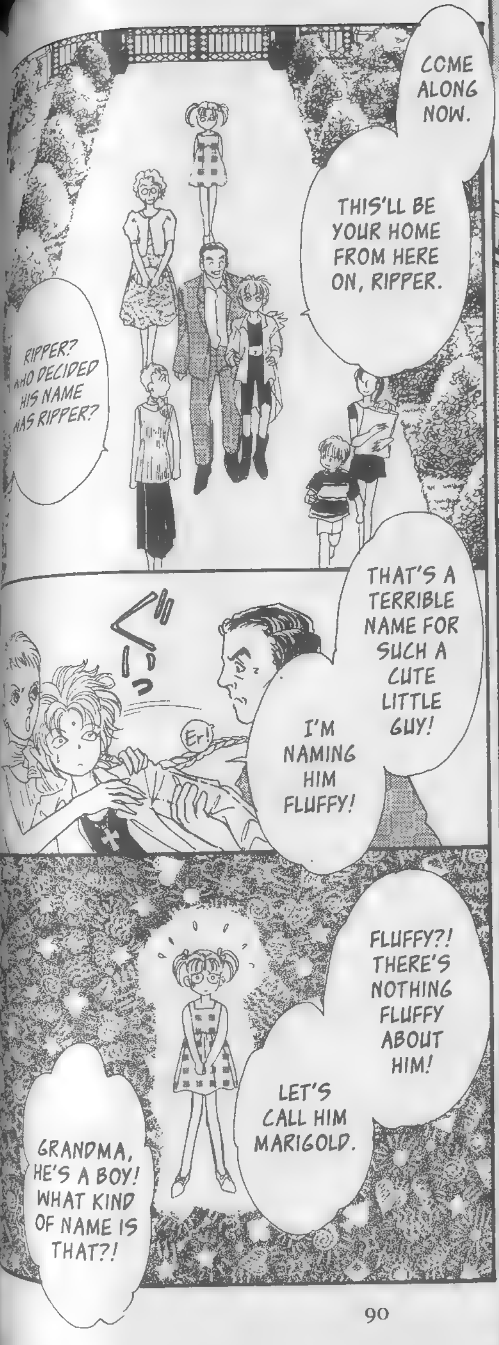

YO, COUNT.
BEEN AWHILE!
おおおお!
STILL CRUDE AND UNDIGNIFIED, I SEE.


Note: Looks Different to Every Person
おおおおおお
HEY, TOOTS!
...
HUH!


I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE THE ONLY PERSON IN YOUR FAMILY CAPABLE OF SEEING HIS TRUE FORM. I'D SAY THAT MAKES YOU PRETTY SPECIAL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DON'T BE AFRAID...
HE CAN BE A VERY GOOD FRIEND TO YOU. BETTER THAN ANY YOU'VE EVER HAD.
FOR THIS PET CAN GRANT YOUR EVERY DESIRE. HOW MANY OF YOUR FRIENDS CAN DO THAT?
......
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS HE TO YOUR LIKING?


HE'S PERFECT!
AND SURPRISINGLY, WE ALL SEEM TO BE IN AGREEMENT.
WE'LL DEFINITELY TAKE HIM.
PLEASE SIGN HERE, THEN.
WITH PROPER CARE, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY YOUR NEW PET FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.
BE A GOOD BOY, TEN-CHAN.
RIGHT-O, COUNT! THESE LUCKY CUSTOMERS ARE IN FOR A TREAT!




COME ALONG NOW.
THIS'LL BE YOUR HOME FROM HERE ON, RIPPER.
RIPPER? WHO DECIDED HIS NAME WAS RIPPER?
THAT'S A TERRIBLE NAME FOR SUCH A CUTE LITTLE GUY!
I'M NAMING HIM FLUFFY!
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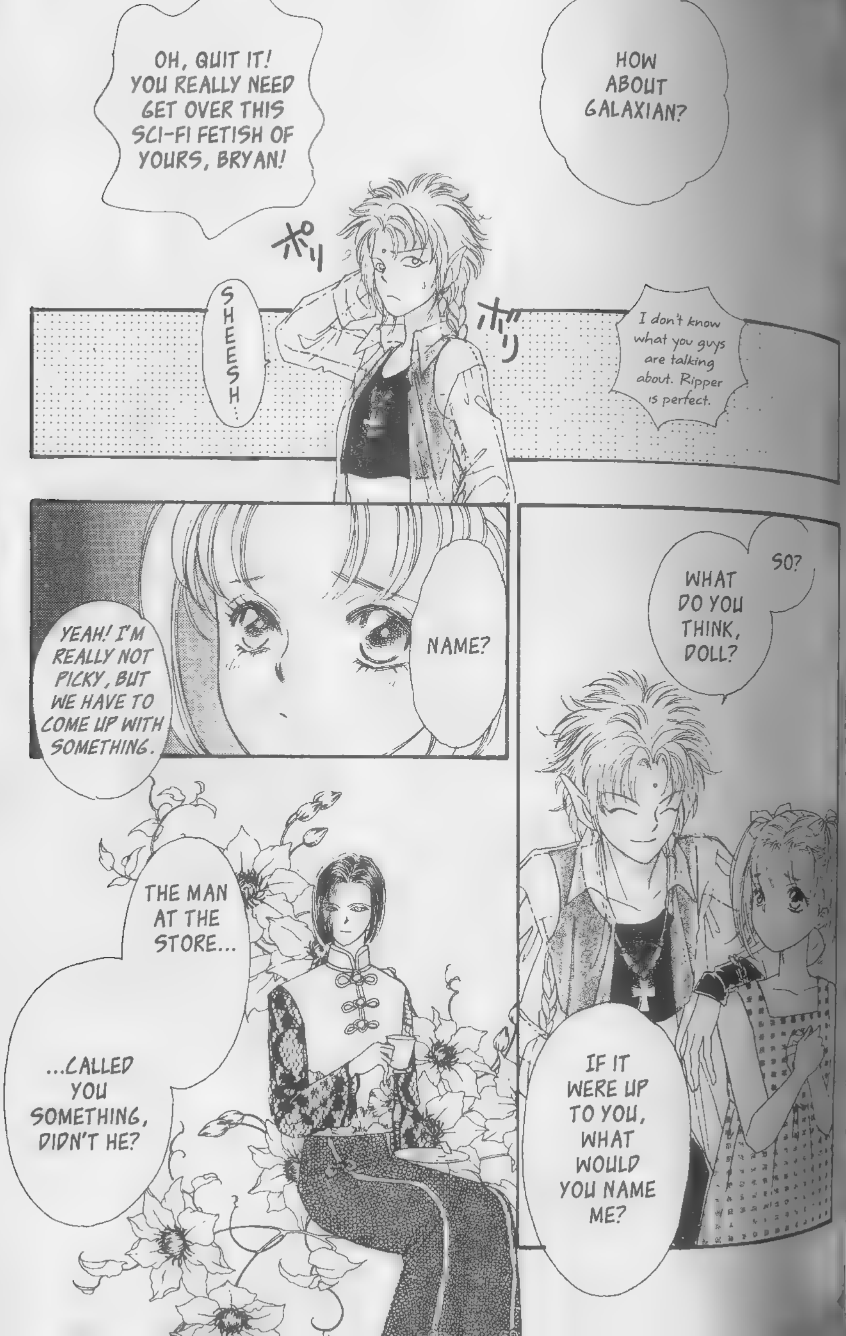
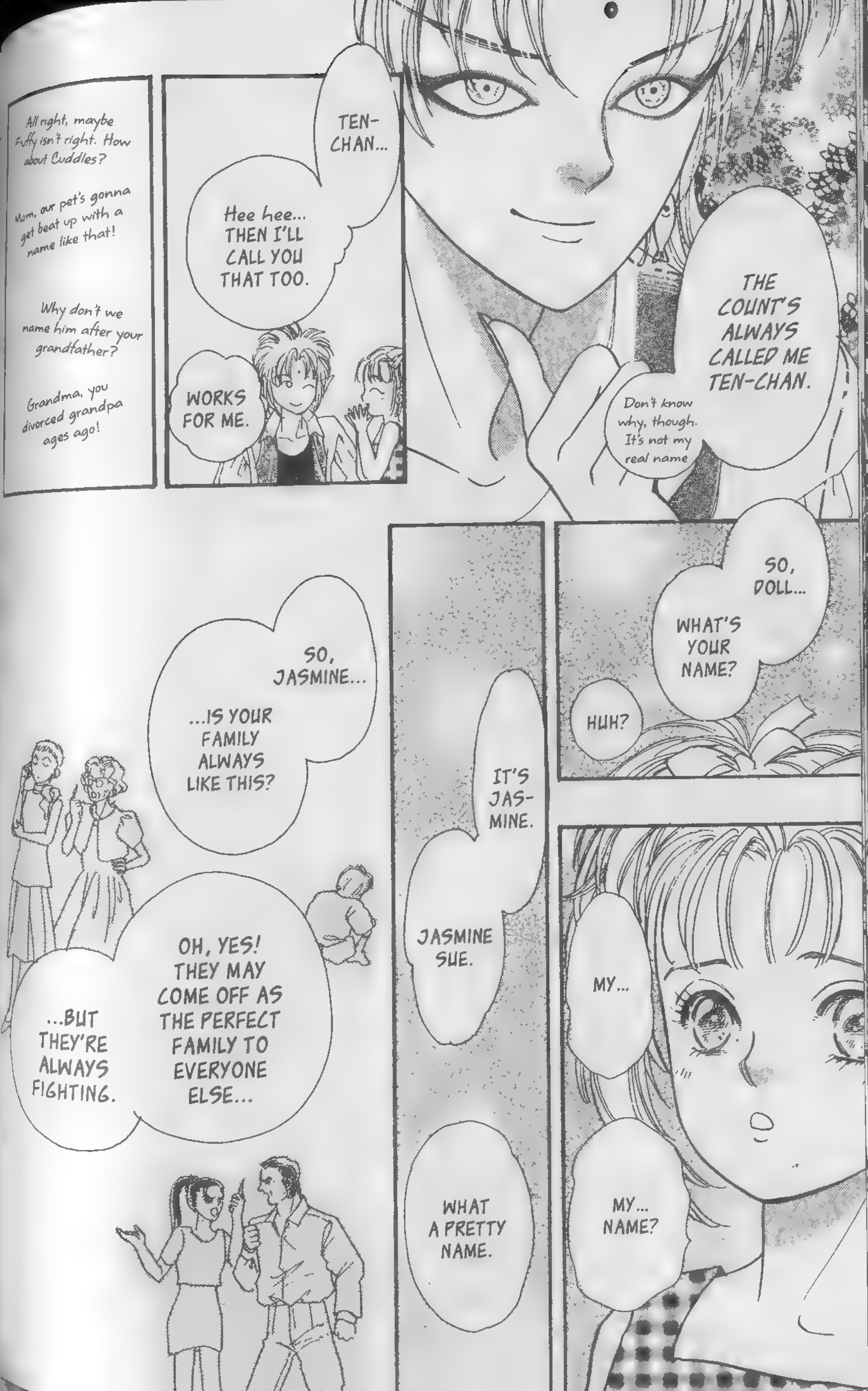
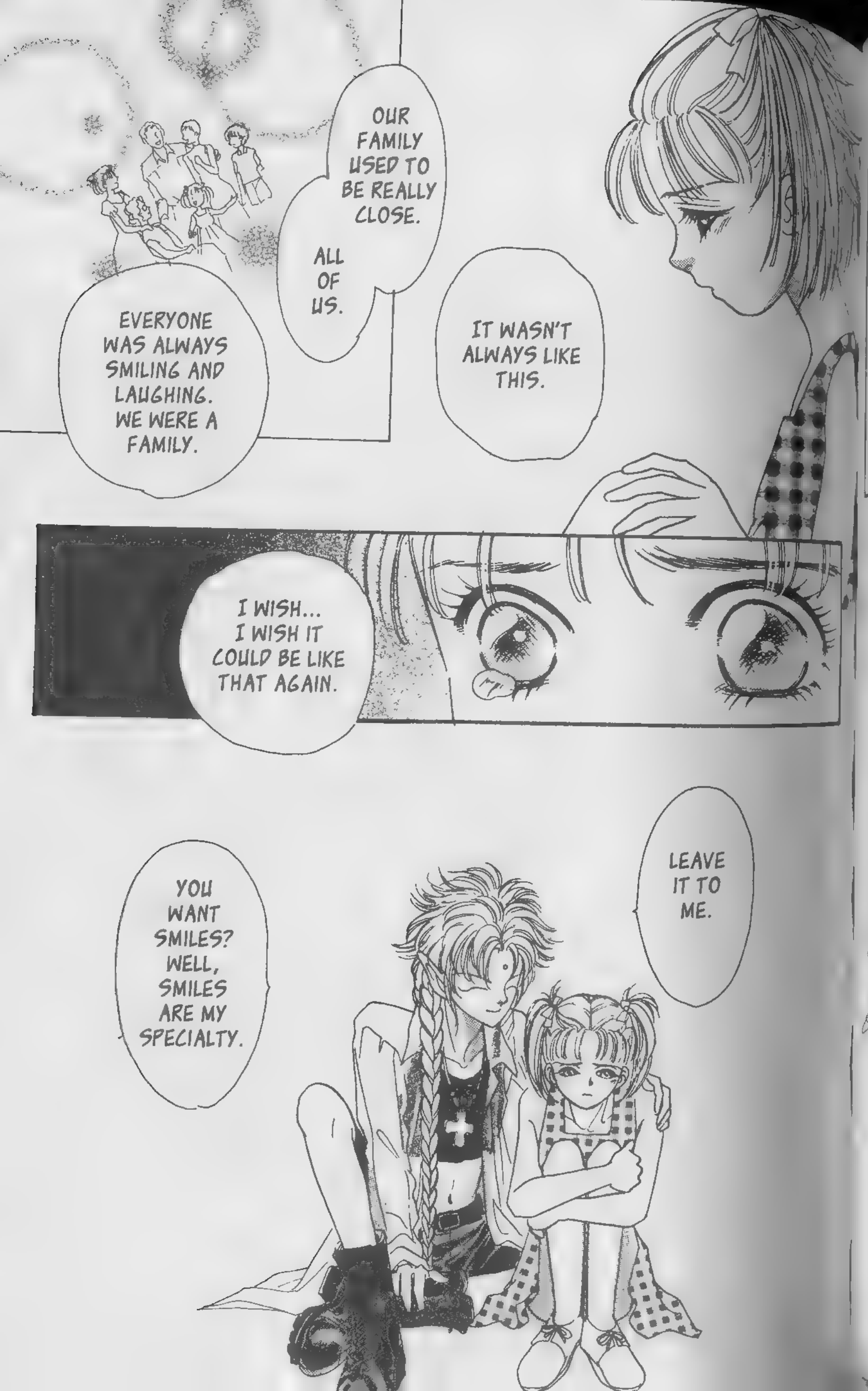
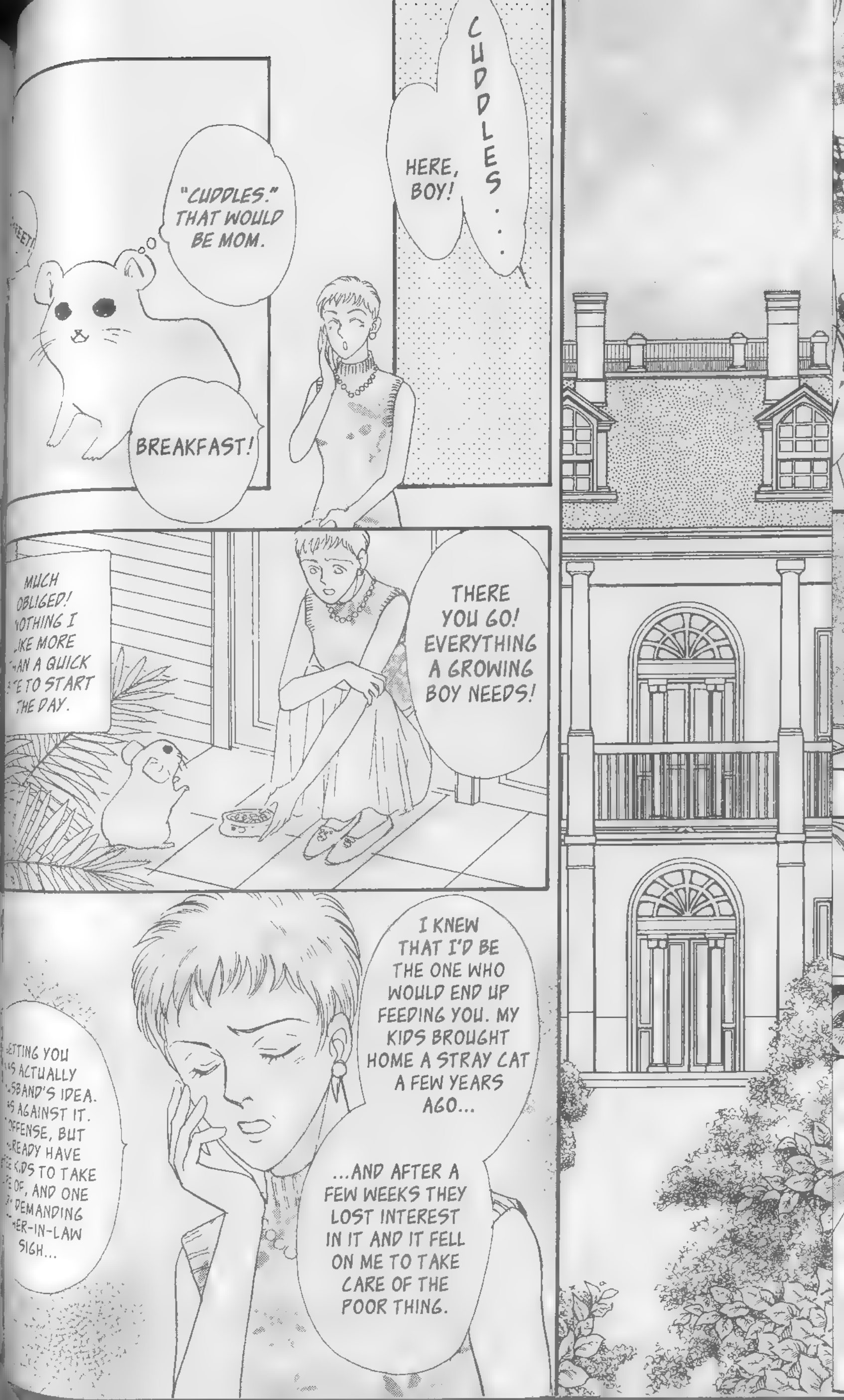
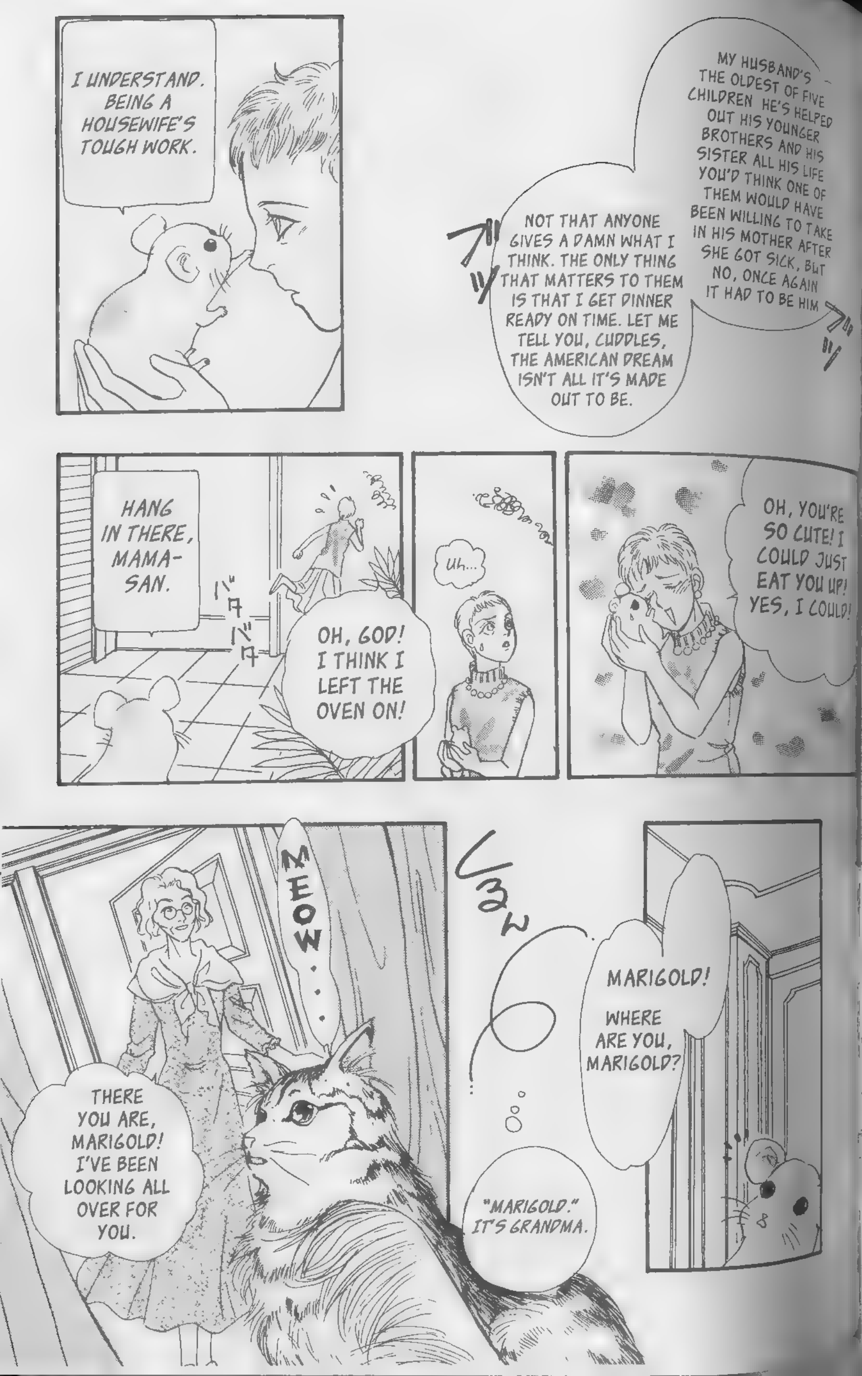
Er!
FLUFFY?! THERE'S NOTHING FLUFFY ABOUT HIM!
LET'S CALL HIM MARIGOLD.
GRANDMA, HE'S A BOY! WHAT KIND OF NAME IS THAT?!

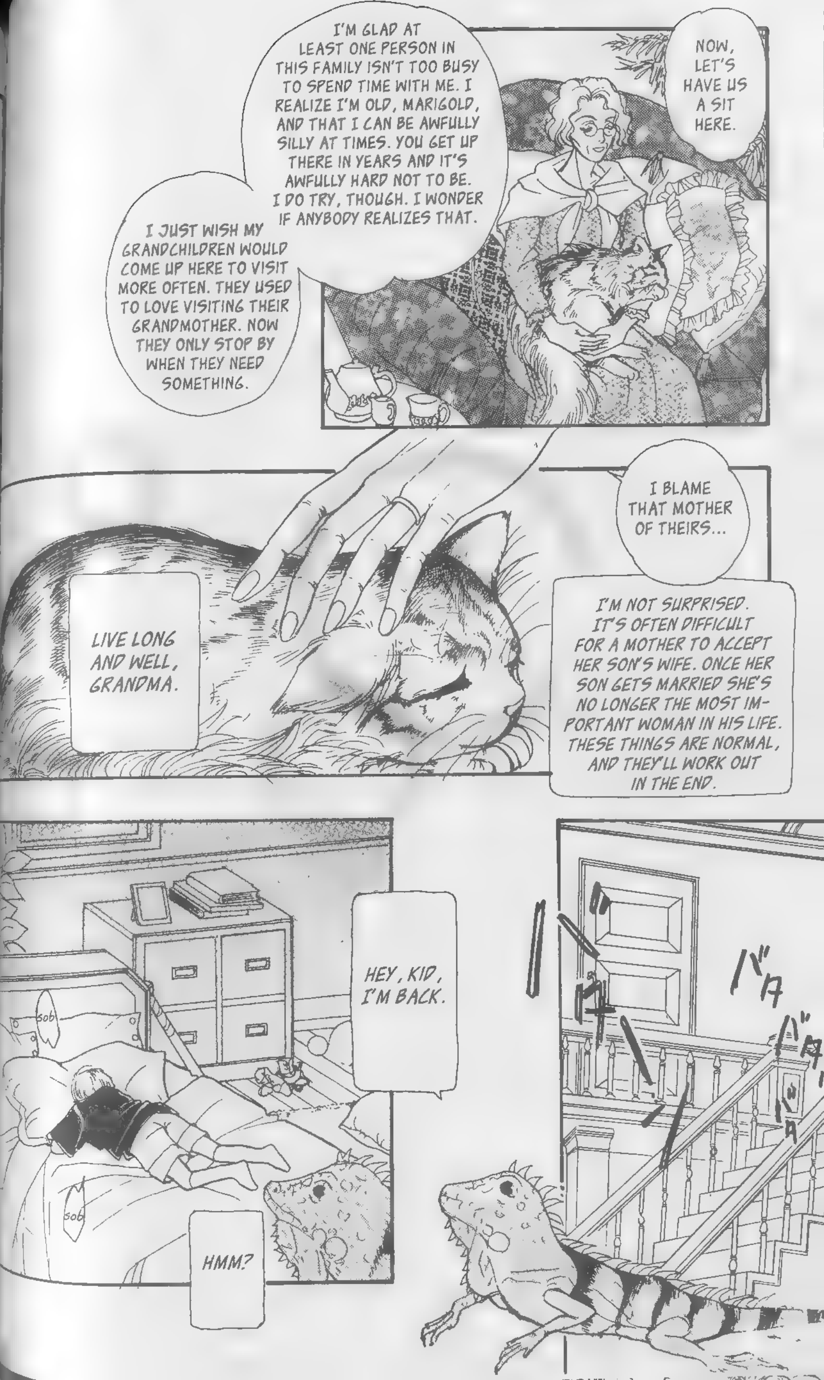

HOW ABOUT GALAXIAN?
OH, QUIT IT! YOU REALLY NEED GET OVER THIS SCI-FI FETISH OF YOURS, BRYAN!
ポリ
ポリ
SHEESH...
I don't know what you guys are talking about. Ripper is perfect.
SO?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOLL?
IF IT WERE UP TO YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU NAME ME?
NAME?
YEAH! I'M REALLY NOT PICKY, BUT WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING.
THE MAN AT THE STORE...
...CALLED YOU SOMETHING, DIDN'T HE?


THE COUNT'S ALWAYS CALLED ME TEN-CHAN.
Don't know why, though. It's not my real name
TEN-CHAN...
Hee hee... THEN I'LL CALL YOU THAT TOO.
WORKS FOR ME.
All right, maybe Fluffy isn't right. How about Cuddles?
Mom, our pet's gonna get beat up with a name like that!
Why don't we name him after your grandfather?
Grandma, you divorced grandpa ages ago!
SO, DOLL...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HUH?
MY...
MY... NAME?
JASMINE SUE.
IT'S JASMINE.
WHAT A PRETTY NAME.
SO, JASMINE...
...IS YOUR FAMILY ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
OH, YES! THEY MAY COME OFF AS THE PERFECT FAMILY TO EVERYONE ELSE...
...BUT THEY'RE ALWAYS FIGHTING.


IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
OUR FAMILY USED TO BE REALLY CLOSE.
ALL OF US.
EVERYONE WAS ALWAYS SMILING AND LAUGHING. WE WERE A FAMILY.
I WISH... I WISH IT COULD BE LIKE THAT AGAIN.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
YOU WANT SMILES? WELL, SMILES ARE MY SPECIALTY.


CUDDLES...
HERE, BOY!
"CUDDLES." THAT WOULD BE MOM.
EET!
BREAKFAST!
THERE YOU GO! EVERYTHING A GROWING BOY NEEDS!
MUCH OBLIGED! NOTHING I LIKE MORE THAN A QUICK BITE TO START THE DAY.
I KNEW THAT I'D BE THE ONE WHO WOULD END UP FEEDING YOU. MY KIDS BROUGHT HOME A STRAY CAT A FEW YEARS AGO...
...AND AFTER A FEW WEEKS THEY LOST INTEREST IN IT AND IT FELL ON ME TO TAKE CARE OF THE POOR THING.
ETTING YOU AS ACTUALLY USBAND'S IDEA. AS AGAINST IT. OFFENSE, BUT READY HAVE EE KIDS TO TAKE E OF, AND ONE DEMANDING ER-IN-LAW SIGH...


MY HUSBAND'S THE OLDEST OF FIVE CHILDREN HE'S HELPED OUT HIS YOUNGER BROTHERS AND HIS SISTER ALL HIS LIFE YOU'D THINK ONE OF THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO TAKE IN HIS MOTHER AFTER SHE GOT SICK, BUT NO, ONCE AGAIN IT HAD TO BE HIM
ブツ
ブツ
NOT THAT ANYONE GIVES A DAMN WHAT I THINK. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS TO THEM IS THAT I GET DINNER READY ON TIME. LET ME TELL YOU, CUDDLES, THE AMERICAN DREAM ISN'T ALL IT'S MADE OUT TO BE.
I UNDERSTAND. BEING A HOUSEWIFE'S TOUGH WORK.
OH, YOU'RE SO CUTE! I COULD JUST EAT YOU UP! YES, I COULD!
Uh...
OH, GOD! I THINK I LEFT THE OVEN ON!
バタバタ
HANG IN THERE, MAMA-SAN.
MARIGOLD! WHERE ARE YOU, MARIGOLD?
"MARIGOLD." IT'S GRANDMA.
MEOW...
THERE YOU ARE, MARIGOLD! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.


NOW, LET'S HAVE US A SIT HERE.
I'M GLAD AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN THIS FAMILY ISN'T TOO BUSY TO SPEND TIME WITH ME. I REALIZE I'M OLD, MARIGOLD, AND THAT I CAN BE AWFULLY SILLY AT TIMES. YOU GET UP THERE IN YEARS AND IT'S AWFULLY HARD NOT TO BE. I DO TRY, THOUGH. I WONDER IF ANYBODY REALIZES THAT.
I JUST WISH MY GRANDCHILDREN WOULD COME UP HERE TO VISIT MORE OFTEN. THEY USED TO LOVE VISITING THEIR GRANDMOTHER. NOW THEY ONLY STOP BY WHEN THEY NEED SOMETHING.
I BLAME THAT MOTHER OF THEIRS...
I'M NOT SURPRISED. IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT FOR A MOTHER TO ACCEPT HER SON'S WIFE. ONCE HER SON GETS MARRIED SHE'S NO LONGER THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN HIS LIFE. THESE THINGS ARE NORMAL, AND THEY'LL WORK OUT IN THE END.
LIVE LONG AND WELL, GRANDMA.
バタ
バタ
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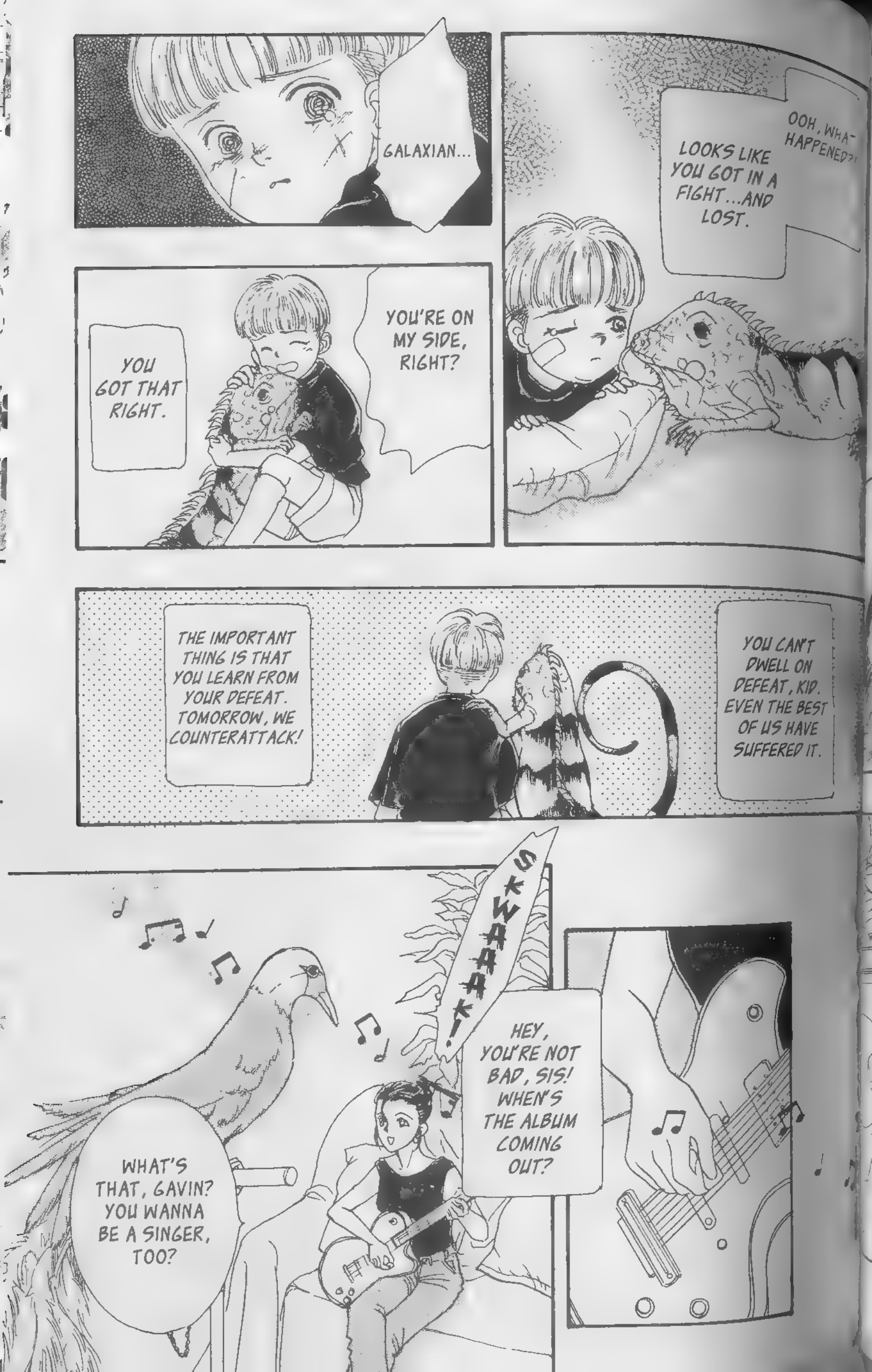
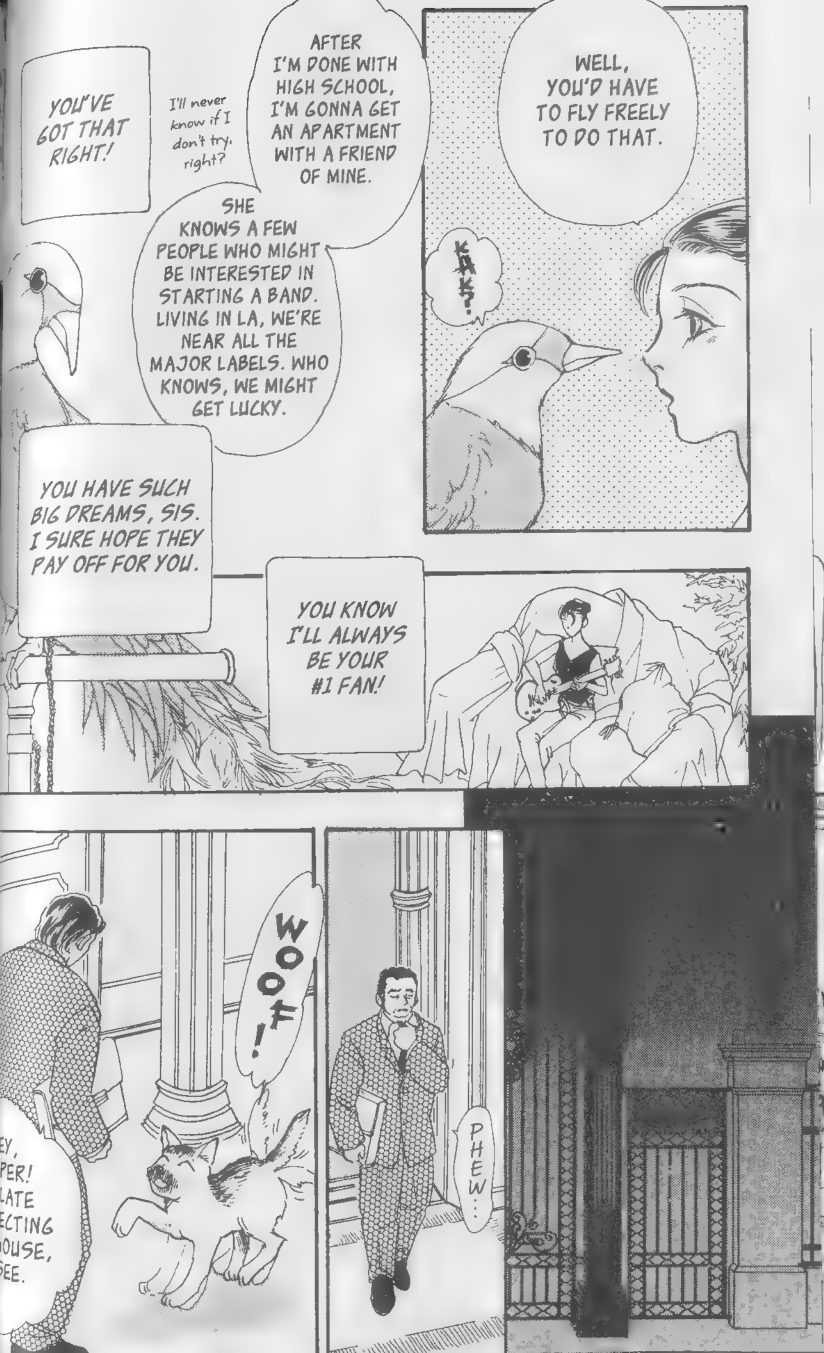
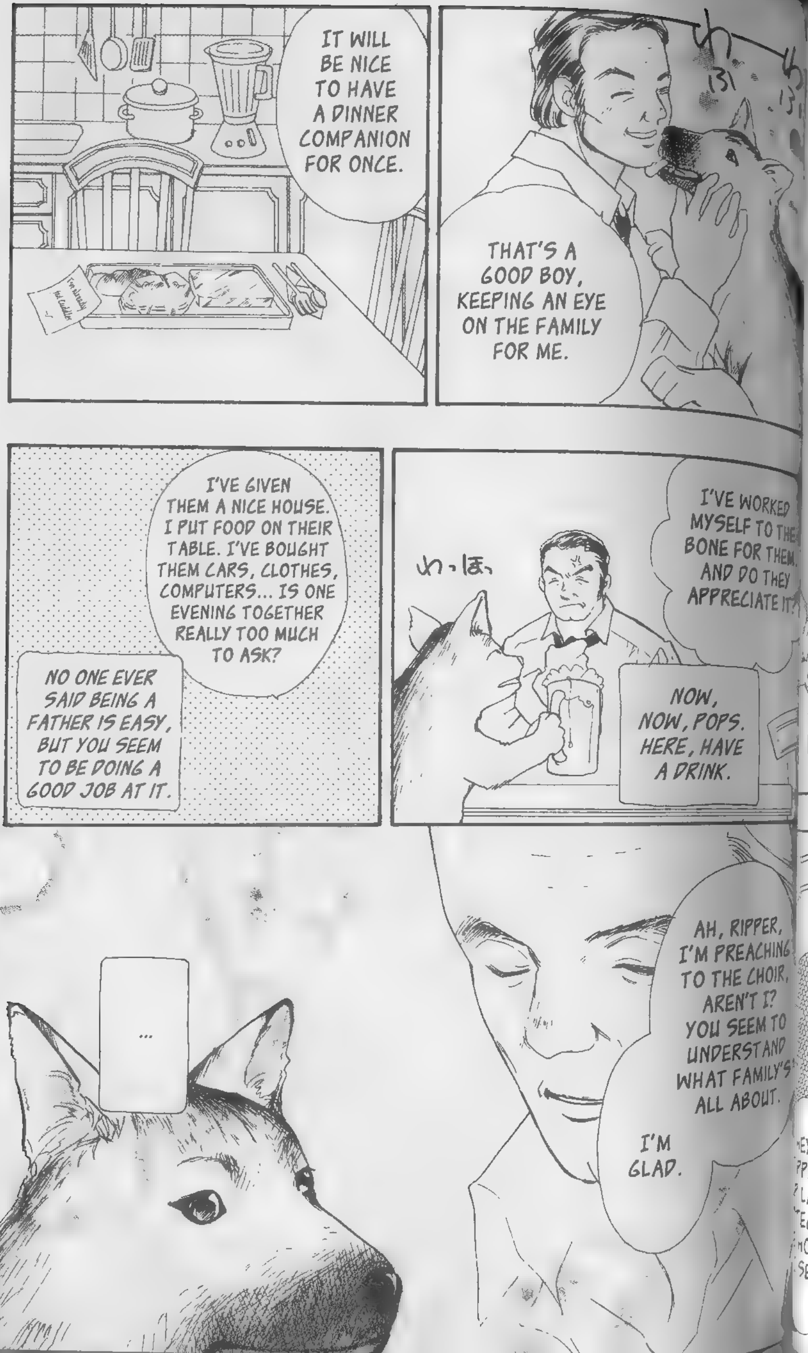
HEY, KID, I'M BACK.
sob
sob
HMM?


OOH, WHAT HAPPENED?!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT IN A FIGHT...AND LOST.
GALAXIAN...
YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, RIGHT?
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
YOU CAN'T DWELL ON DEFEAT, KID. EVEN THE BEST OF US HAVE SUFFERED IT.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU LEARN FROM YOUR DEFEAT. TOMORROW, WE COUNTERATTACK!
HEY, YOU'RE NOT BAD, SIS! WHEN'S THE ALBUM COMING OUT?
SKWAAAAK!
WHAT'S THAT, GAVIN? YOU WANNA BE A SINGER, TOO?



WELL, YOU'D HAVE TO FLY FREELY TO DO THAT.
KAK?
AFTER I'M DONE WITH HIGH SCHOOL, I'M GONNA GET AN APARTMENT WITH A FRIEND OF MINE.
I'll never know if I don't try, right?
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT!
SHE KNOWS A FEW PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN STARTING A BAND. LIVING IN LA, WE'RE NEAR ALL THE MAJOR LABELS. WHO KNOWS, WE MIGHT GET LUCKY.
YOU HAVE SUCH BIG DREAMS, SIS. I SURE HOPE THEY PAY OFF FOR YOU.
YOU KNOW I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR #1 FAN!
PHEW...
WOOF!
EY, PPER! LATE ECTING HOUSE, SEE.



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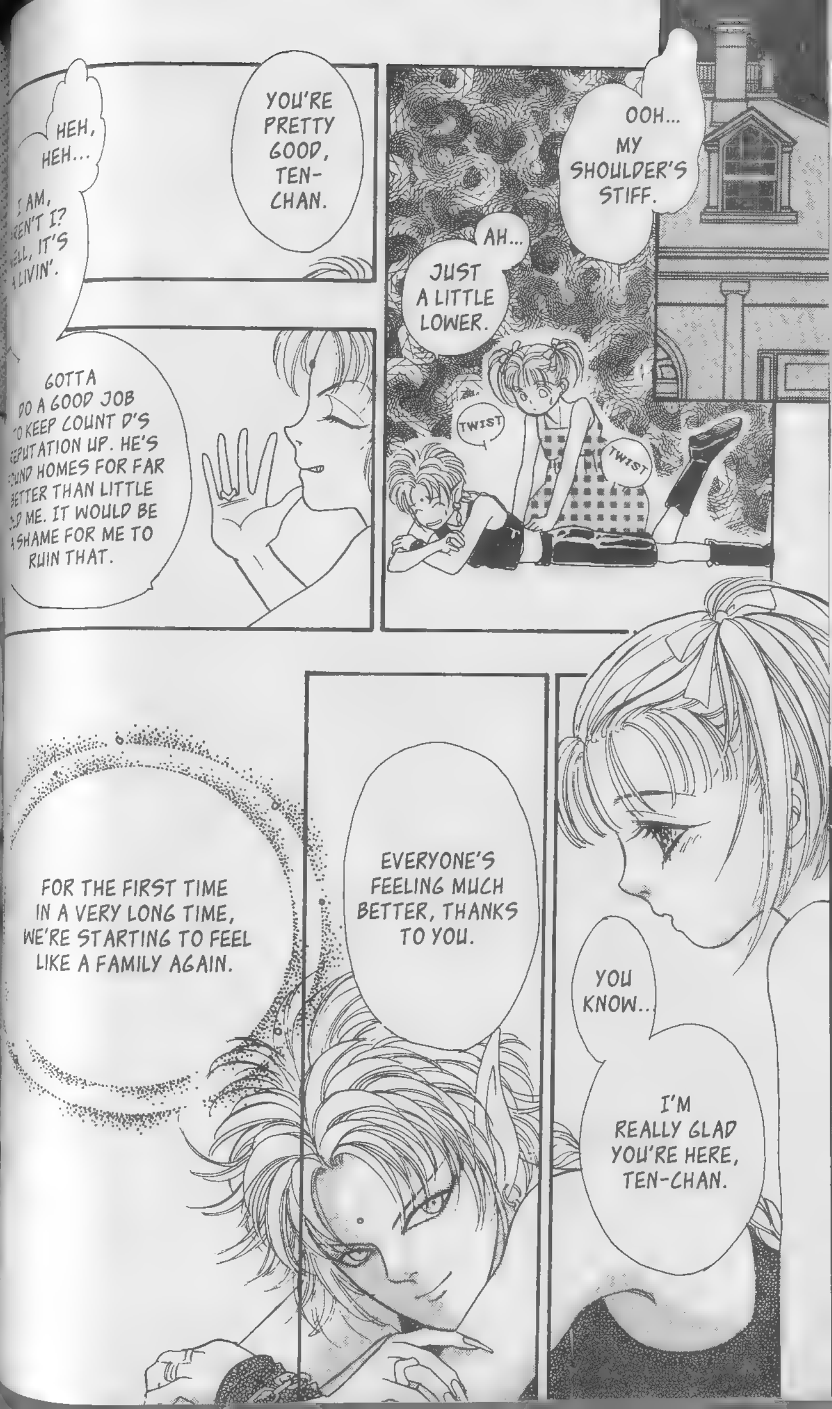
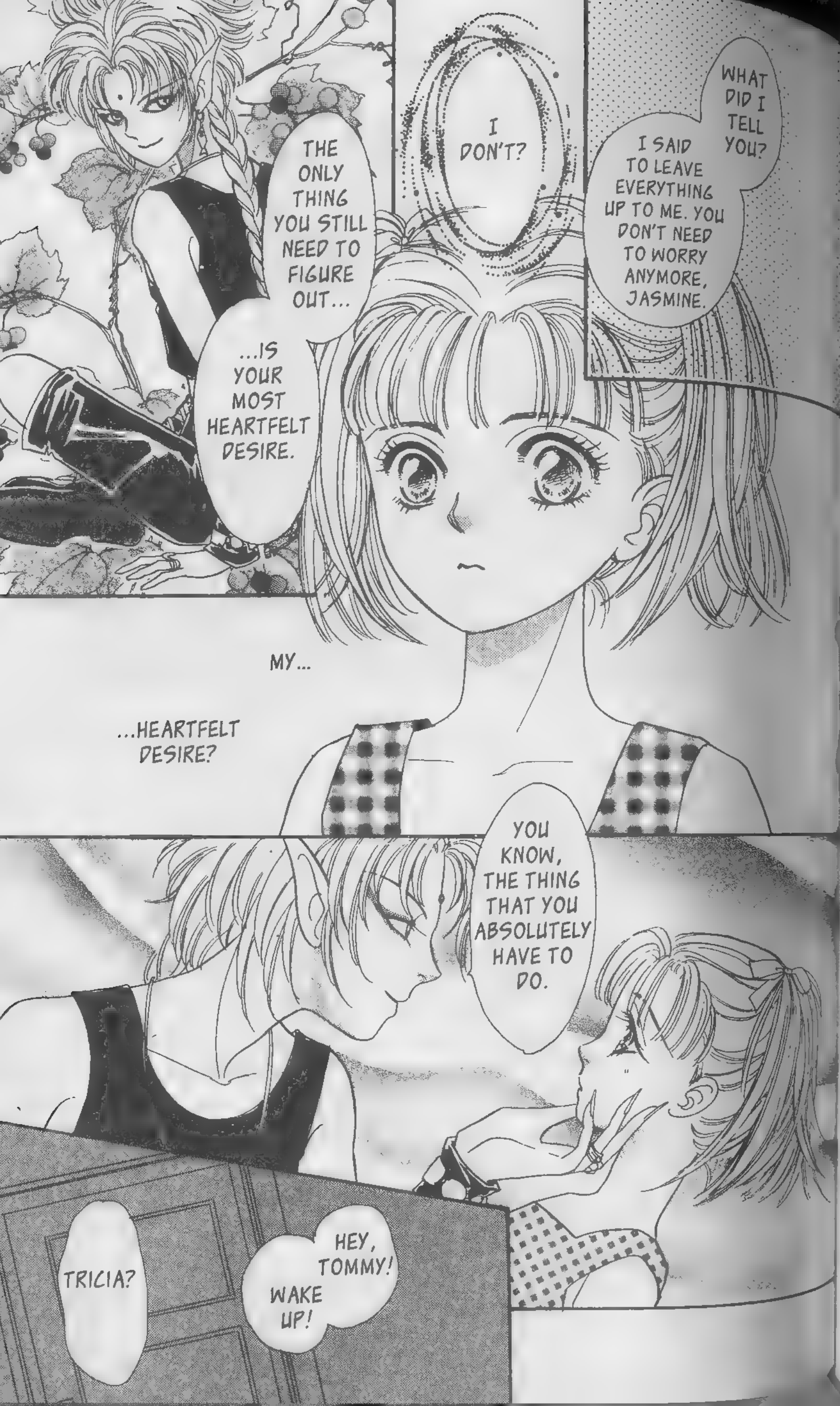
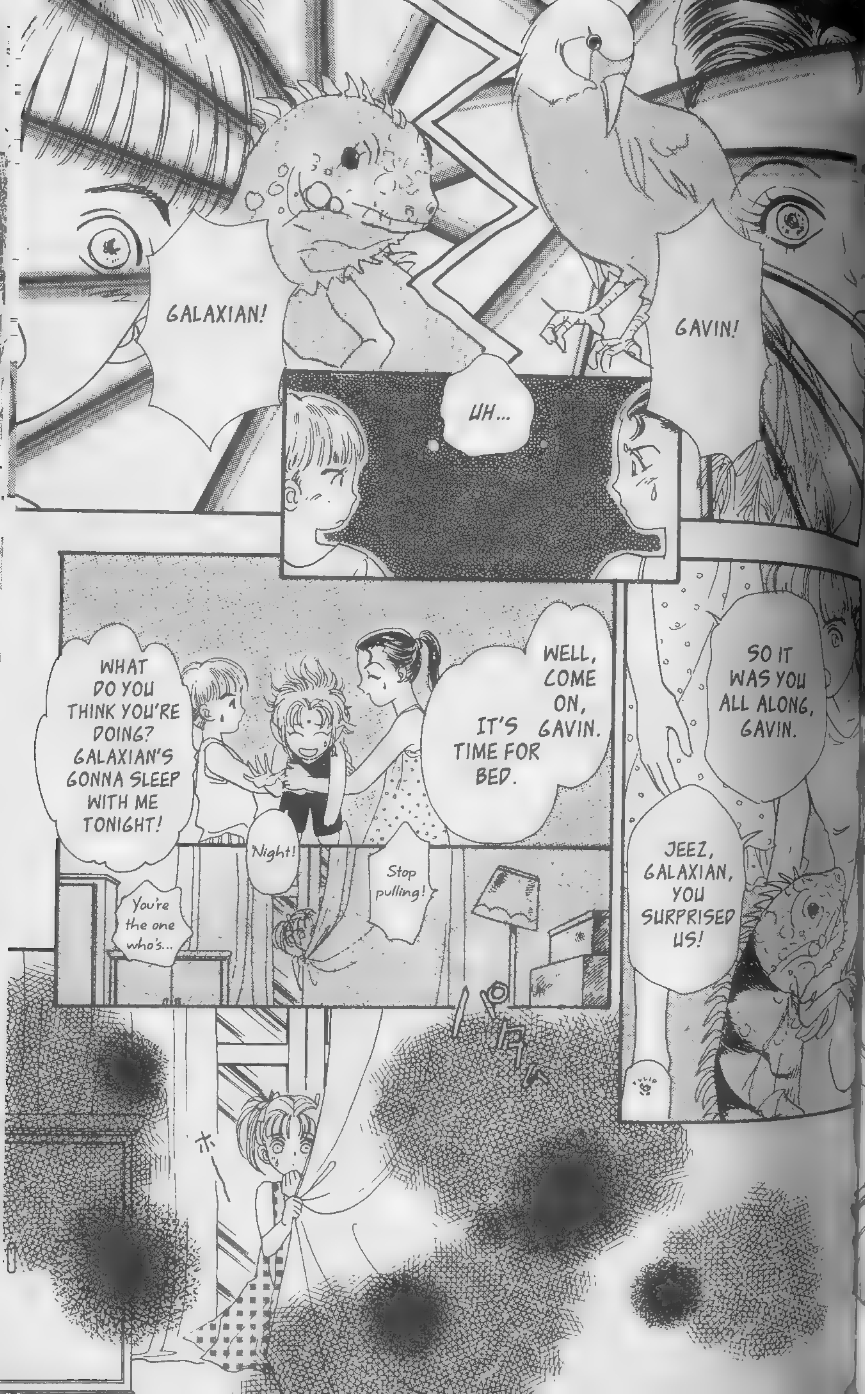
THAT'S A GOOD BOY, KEEPING AN EYE ON THE FAMILY FOR ME.
IT WILL BE NICE TO HAVE A DINNER COMPANION FOR ONCE.
I'VE WORKED MYSELF TO THE BONE FOR THEM. AND DO THEY APPRECIATE IT?
わっほっ
NOW, NOW, POPS. HERE, HAVE A DRINK.
I'VE GIVEN THEM A NICE HOUSE. I PUT FOOD ON THEIR TABLE. I'VE BOUGHT THEM CARS, CLOTHES, COMPUTERS... IS ONE EVENING TOGETHER REALLY TOO MUCH TO ASK?
NO ONE EVER SAID BEING A FATHER IS EASY, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE DOING A GOOD JOB AT IT.
AH, RIPPER, I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR, AREN'T I? YOU SEEM TO UNDERSTAND WHAT FAMILY'S ALL ABOUT.
I'M GLAD.
...


OOH... MY SHOULDER'S STIFF.
AH... JUST A LITTLE LOWER.
TWIST
TWIST
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD, TEN-CHAN.
HEH, HEH...
I AM, REN'T I? ELL, IT'S A LIVIN'.
GOTTA DO A GOOD JOB TO KEEP COUNT D'S EPUTATION UP. HE'S OUND HOMES FOR FAR BETTER THAN LITTLE LD ME. IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR ME TO RUIN THAT.
YOU KNOW...
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE HERE, TEN-CHAN.
EVERYONE'S FEELING MUCH BETTER, THANKS TO YOU.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A VERY LONG TIME, WE'RE STARTING TO FEEL LIKE A FAMILY AGAIN.


WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
I SAID TO LEAVE EVERYTHING UP TO ME. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ANYMORE, JASMINE.
I DON'T?
THE ONLY THING YOU STILL NEED TO FIGURE OUT...
...IS YOUR MOST HEARTFELT DESIRE.
MY...
...HEARTFELT DESIRE?
YOU KNOW, THE THING THAT YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO.
HEY, TOMMY!
WAKE UP!
TRICIA?


GALAXIAN!
GAVIN!
UH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? GALAXIAN'S GONNA SLEEP WITH ME TONIGHT!
WELL, COME ON, GAVIN.
IT'S TIME FOR BED.
Night!
Stop pulling!
You're the one who's...
SO IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG, GAVIN.
JEEZ, GALAXIAN, YOU SURPRISED US!
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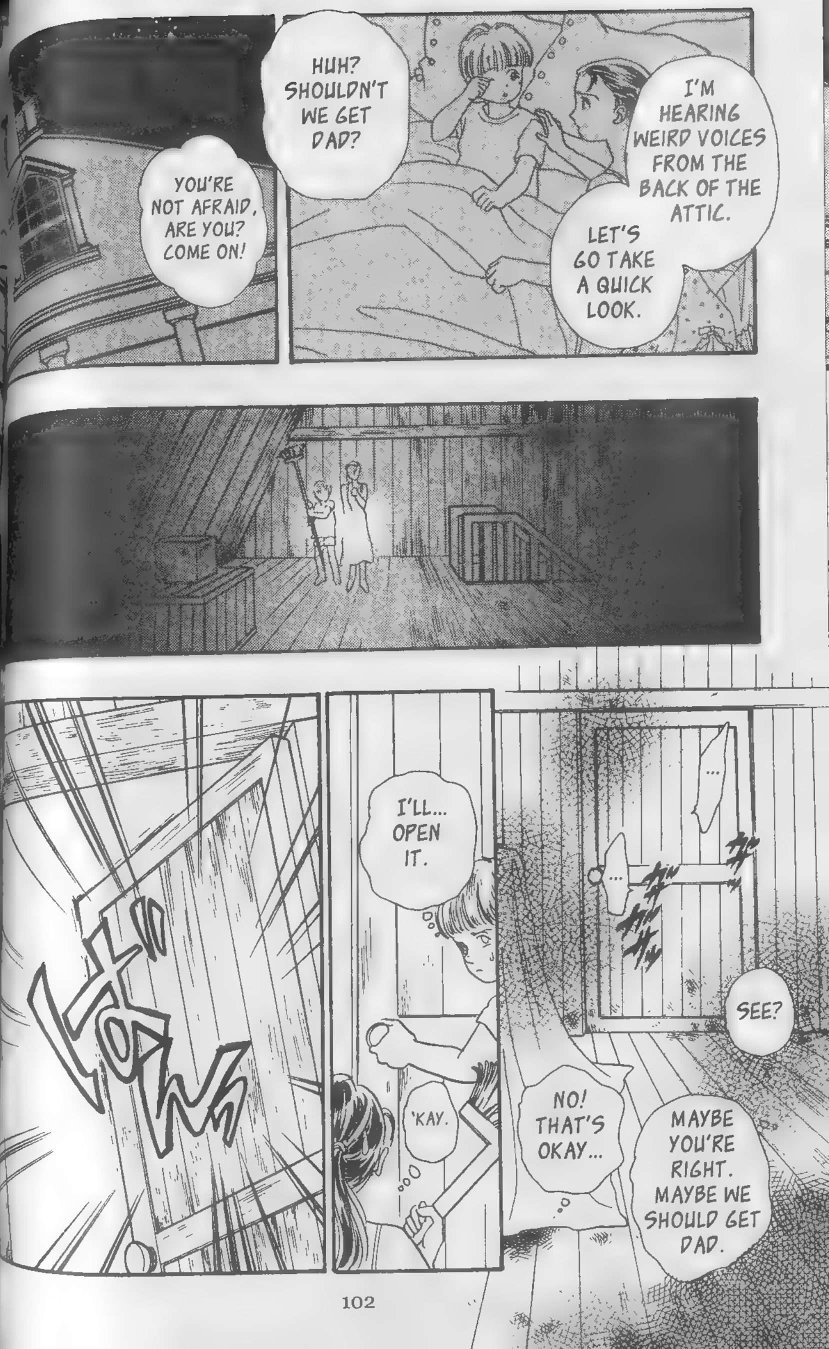
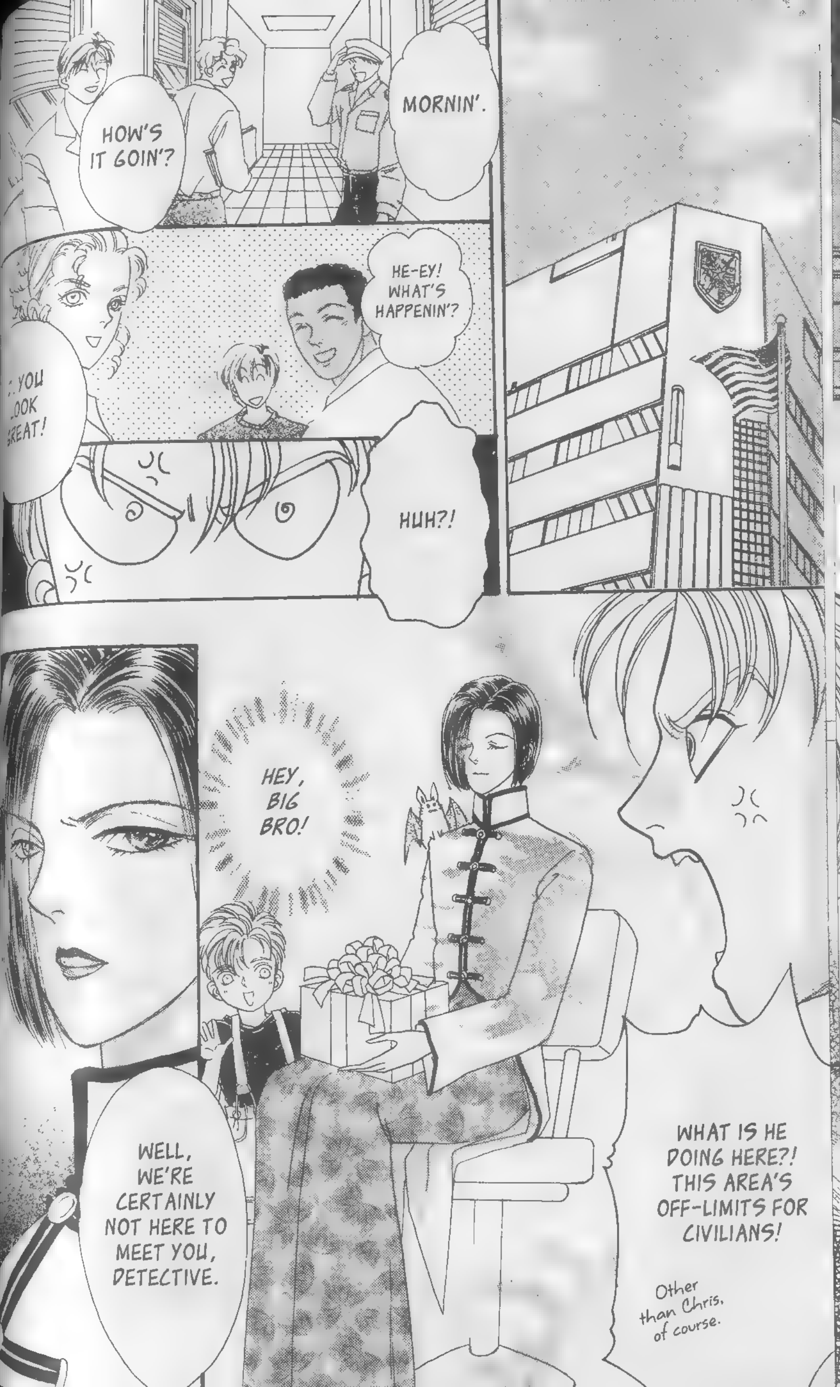
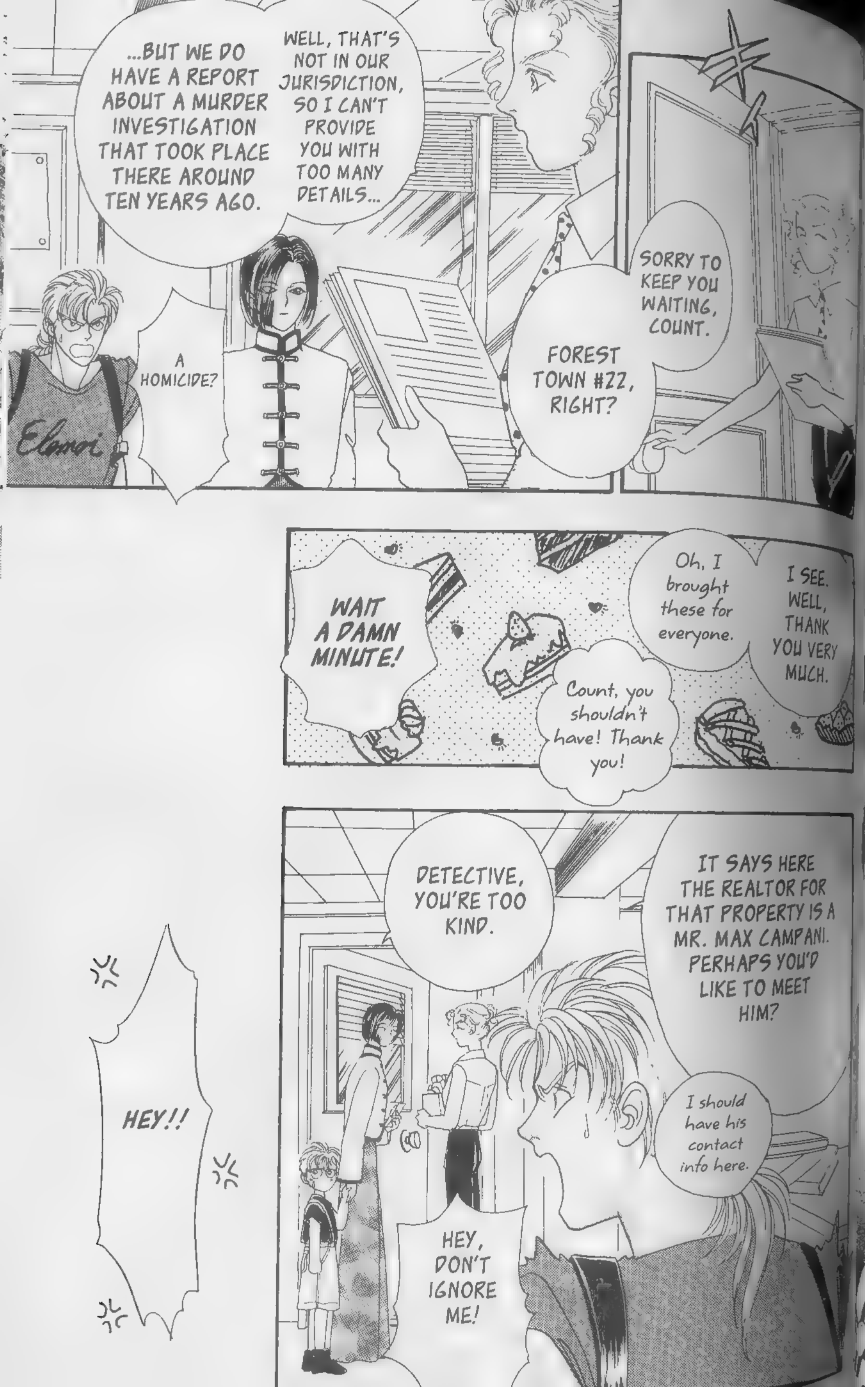
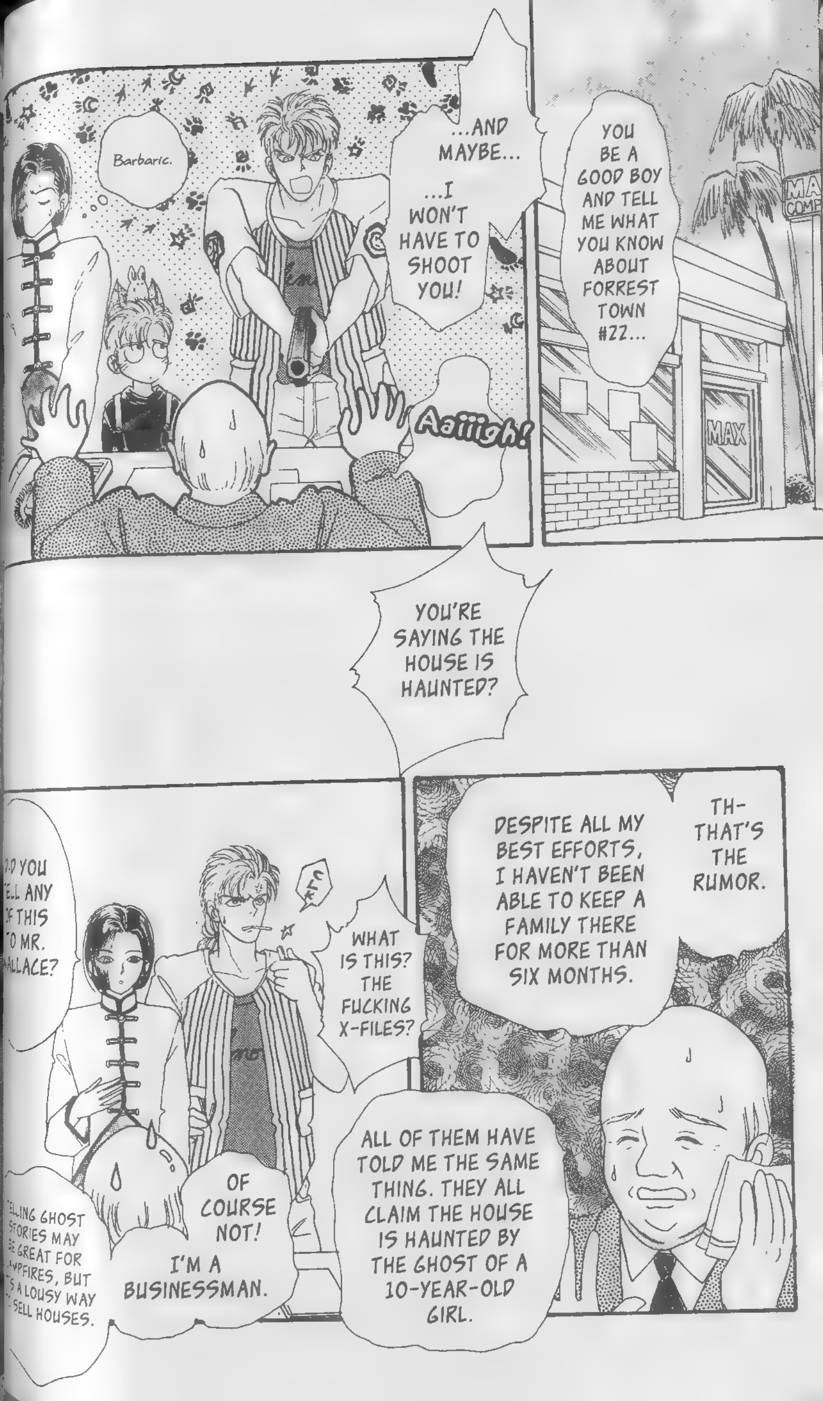
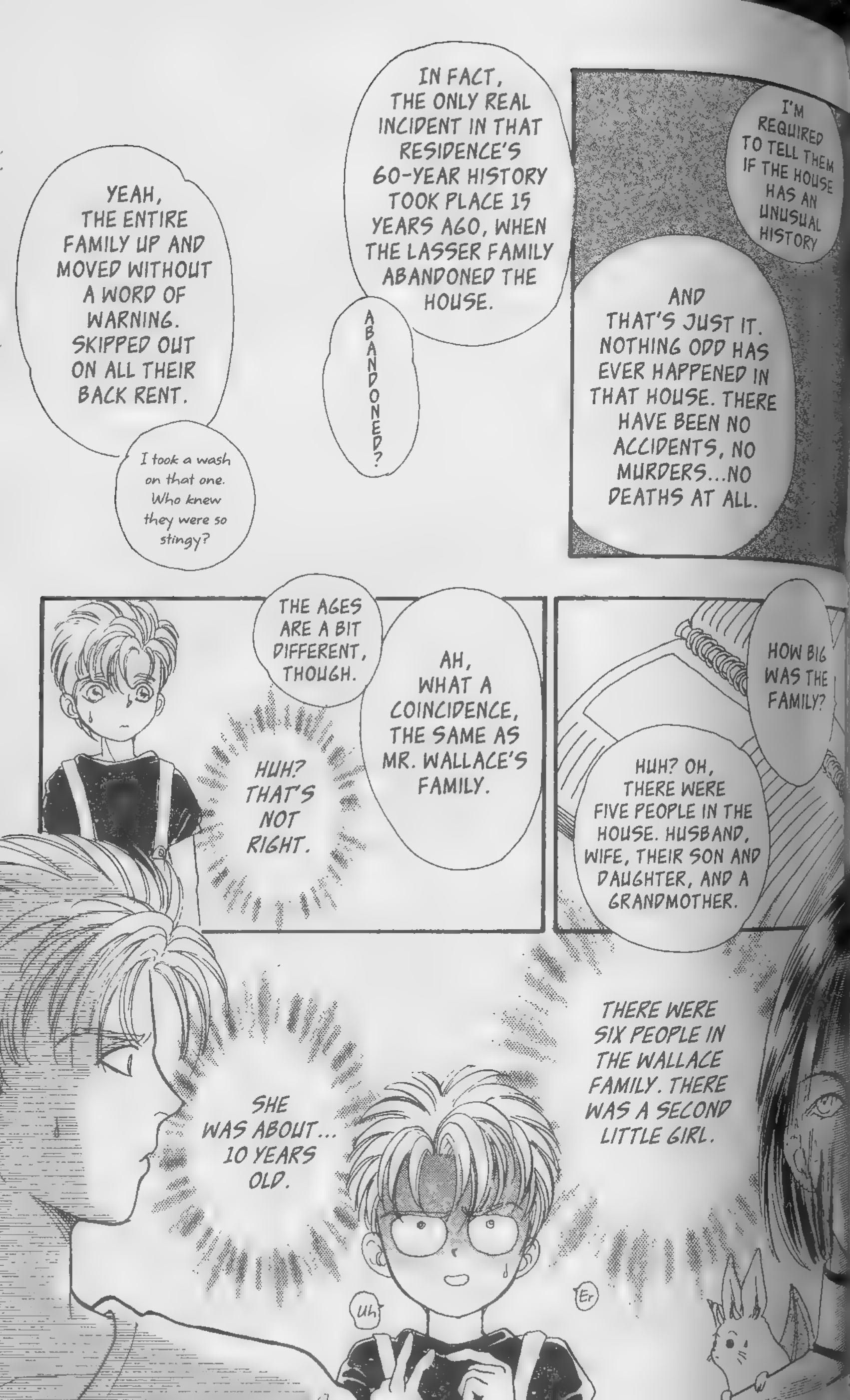
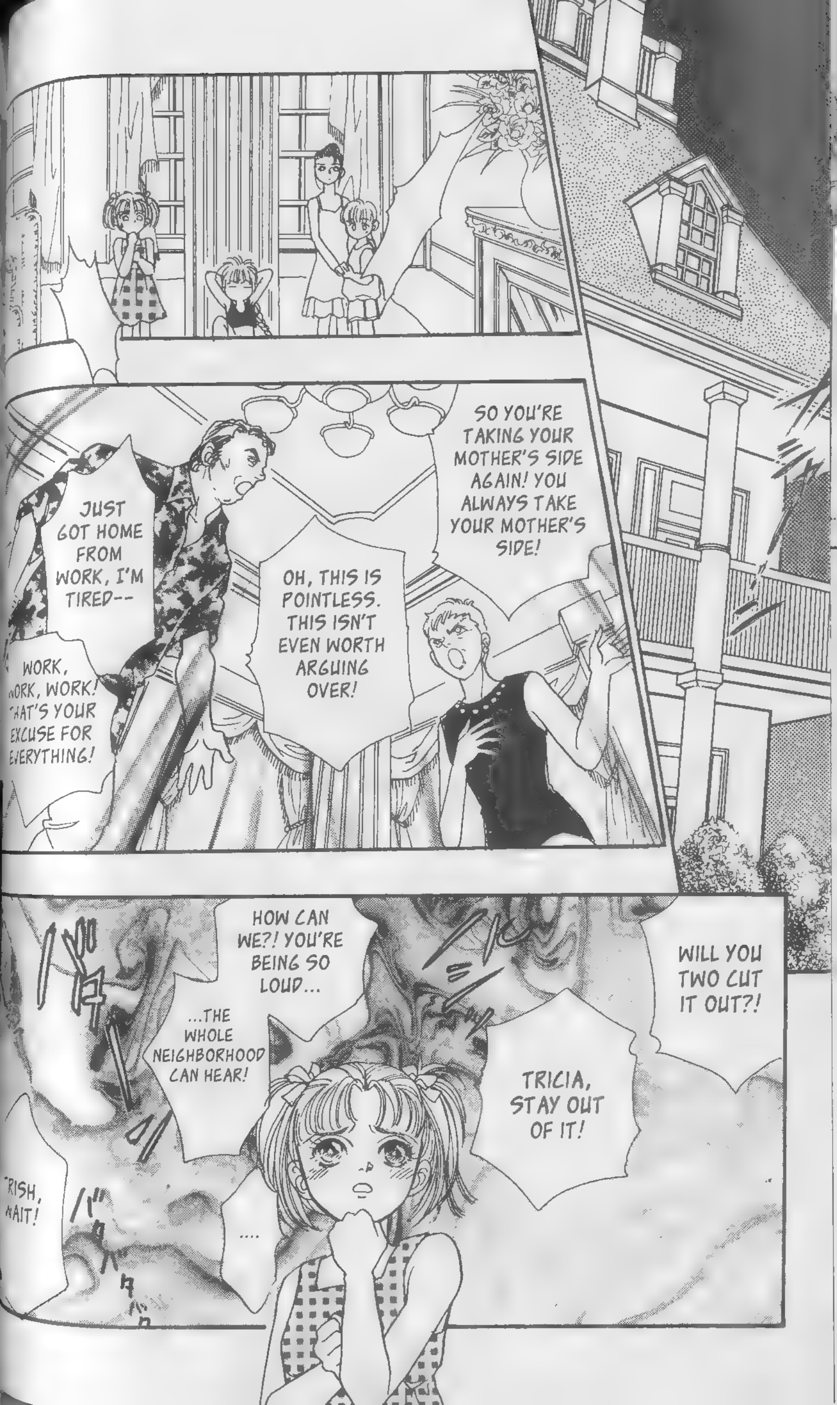

I'M HEARING WEIRD VOICES FROM THE BACK OF THE ATTIC.
LET'S GO TAKE A QUICK LOOK.
HUH? SHOULDN'T WE GET DAD?
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, ARE YOU? COME ON!
...
...
SEE?
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE WE SHOULD GET DAD.
NO! THAT'S OKAY...
I'LL... OPEN IT.
'KAY.

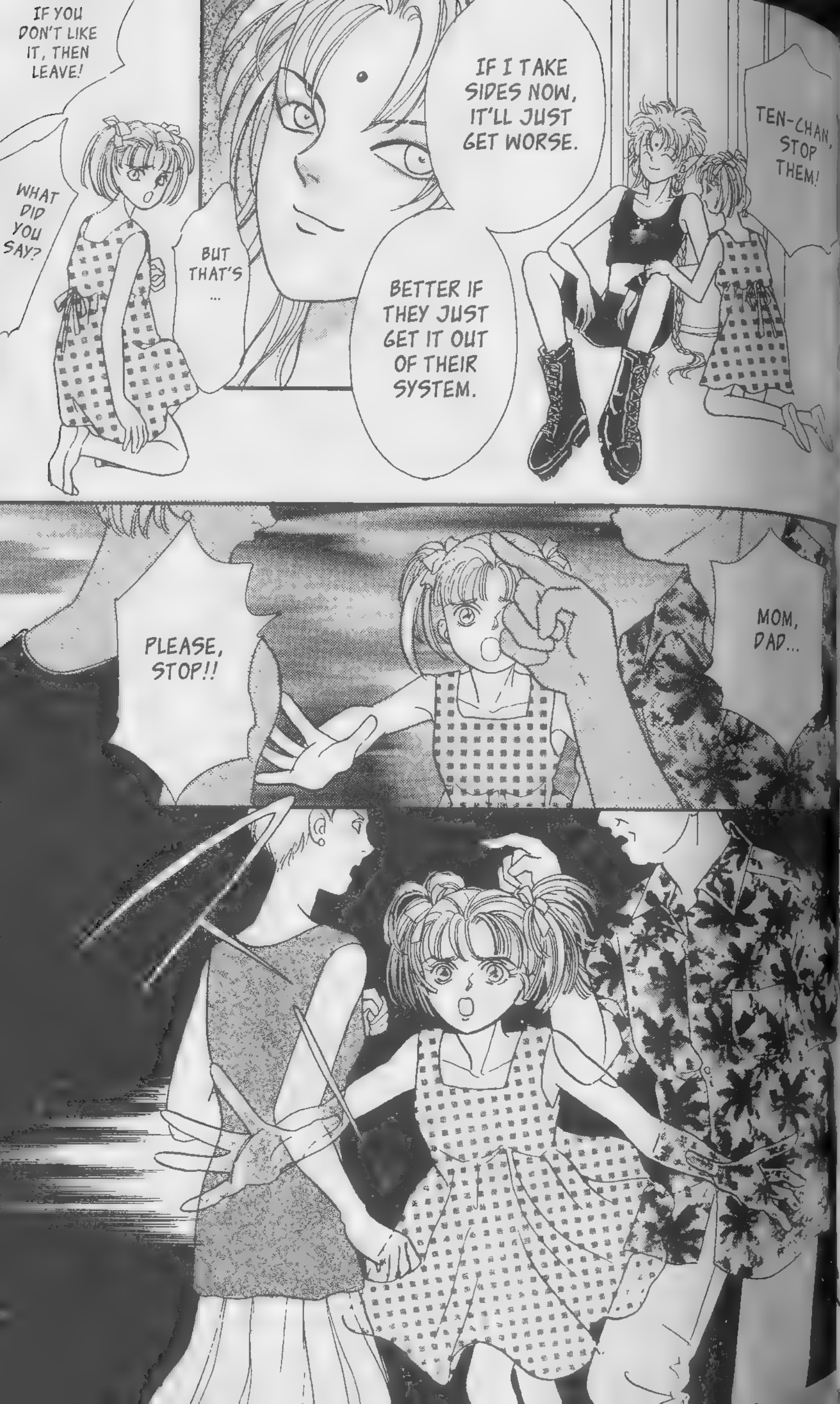

MORNIN'.
HOW'S IT GOIN'?
HE-EY! WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?
.. YOU LOOK GREAT!
HUH?!
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?! THIS AREA'S OFF-LIMITS FOR CIVILIANS!
Other than Chris, of course.
HEY, BIG BRO!
WELL, WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT HERE TO MEET YOU, DETECTIVE.

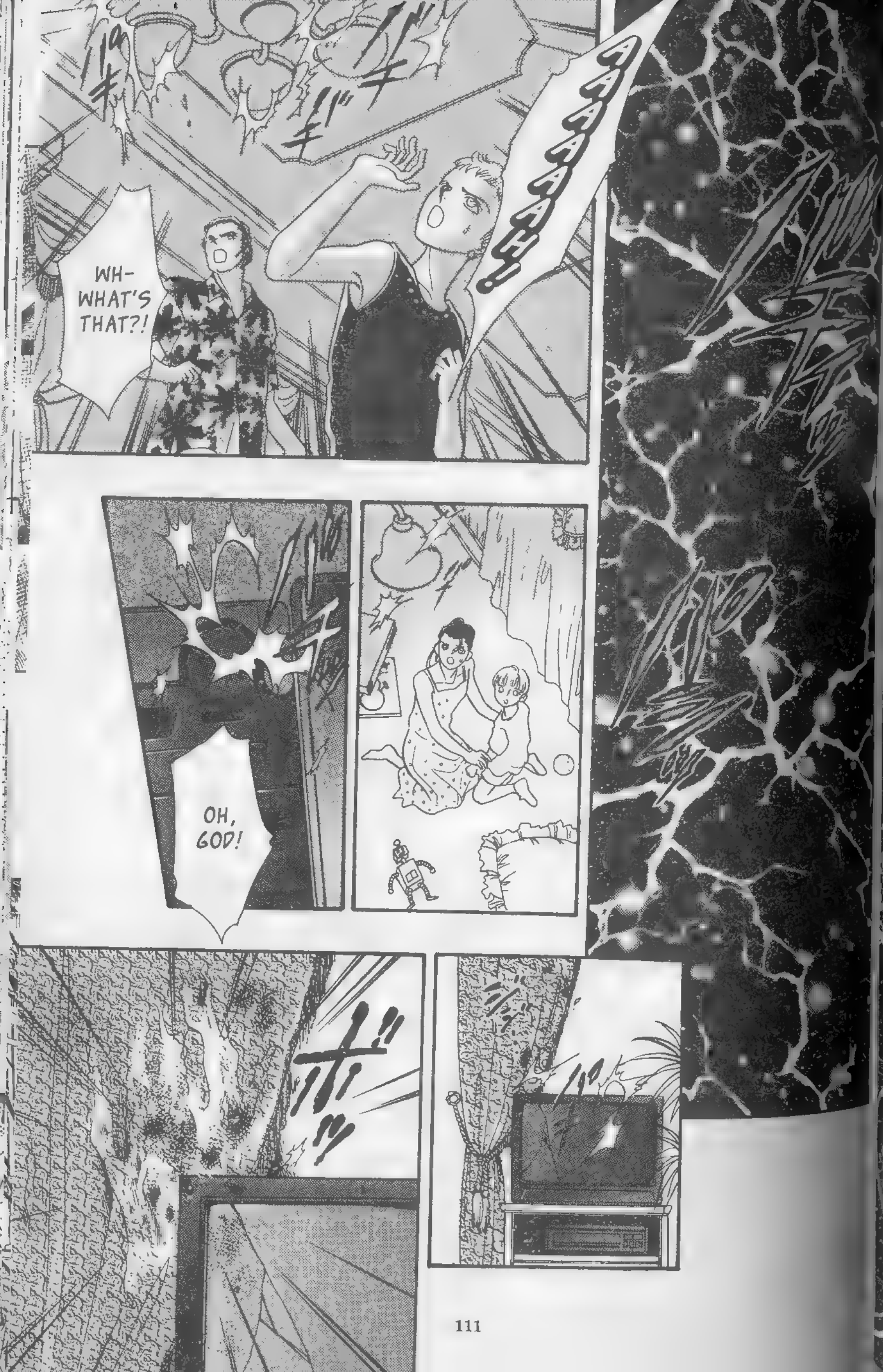

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, COUNT.
FOREST TOWN #22, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S NOT IN OUR JURISDICTION, SO I CAN'T PROVIDE YOU WITH TOO MANY DETAILS...
...BUT WE DO HAVE A REPORT ABOUT A MURDER INVESTIGATION THAT TOOK PLACE THERE AROUND TEN YEARS AGO.
A HOMICIDE?
I SEE. WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Oh, I brought these for everyone.
Count, you shouldn't have! Thank you!
WAIT A DAMN MINUTE!
IT SAYS HERE THE REALTOR FOR THAT PROPERTY IS A MR. MAX CAMPANI. PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO MEET HIM?
I should have his contact info here.
DETECTIVE, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
HEY, DON'T IGNORE ME!
HEY!!

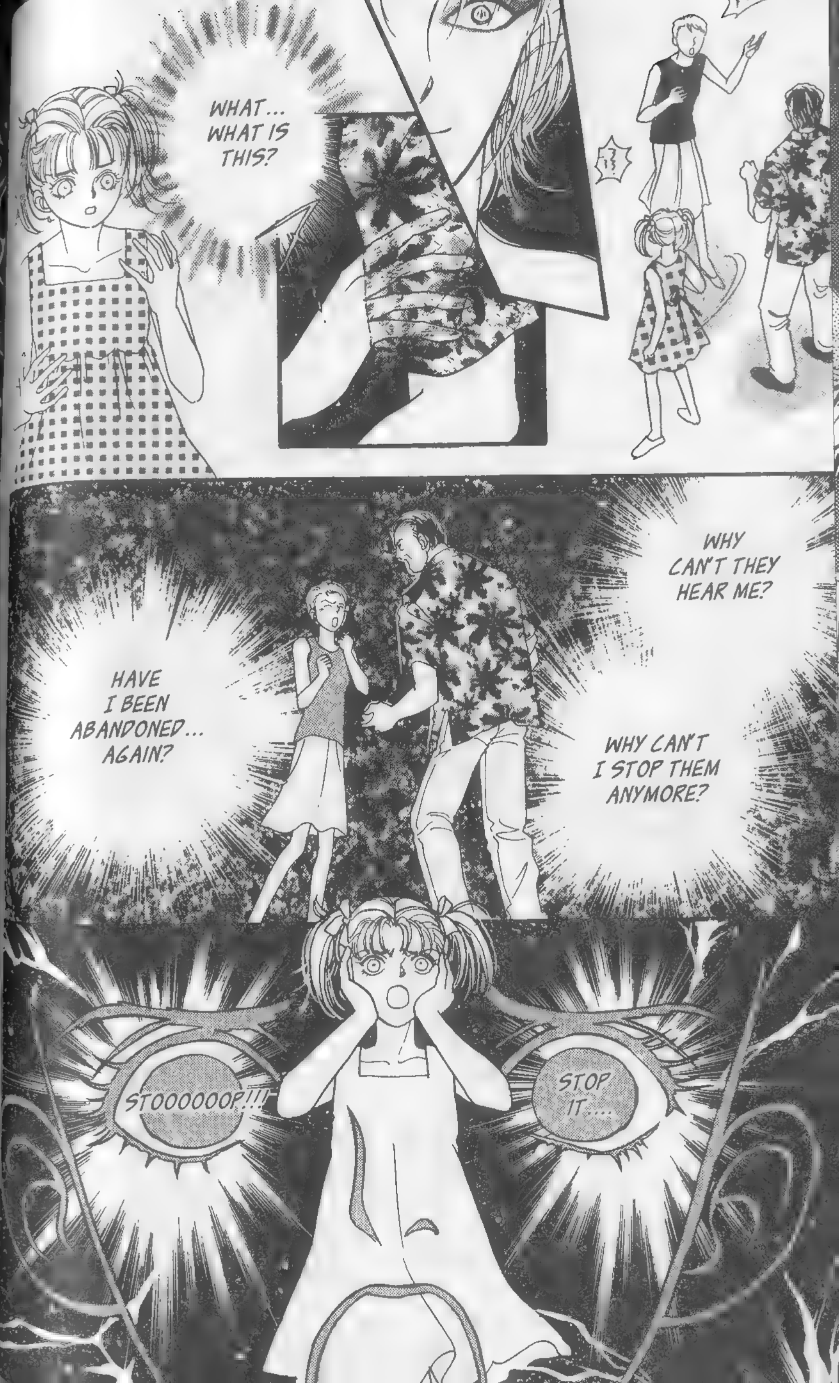

YOU BE A GOOD BOY AND TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT FORREST TOWN #22...
MA COMP
MAX
...AND MAYBE...
...I WON'T HAVE TO SHOOT YOU!
Barbaric.
Aaiiigh!
YOU'RE SAYING THE HOUSE IS HAUNTED?
TH-THAT'S THE RUMOR.
DESPITE ALL MY BEST EFFORTS, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP A FAMILY THERE FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS.
ALL OF THEM HAVE TOLD ME THE SAME THING. THEY ALL CLAIM THE HOUSE IS HAUNTED BY THE GHOST OF A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL.
WHAT IS THIS? THE FUCKING X-FILES?
D YOU ELL ANY F THIS O MR. ALLACE?
OF COURSE NOT!
I'M A BUSINESSMAN.
ELLING GHOST TORIES MAY E GREAT FOR MPFIRES, BUT S A LOUSY WAY SELL HOUSES.

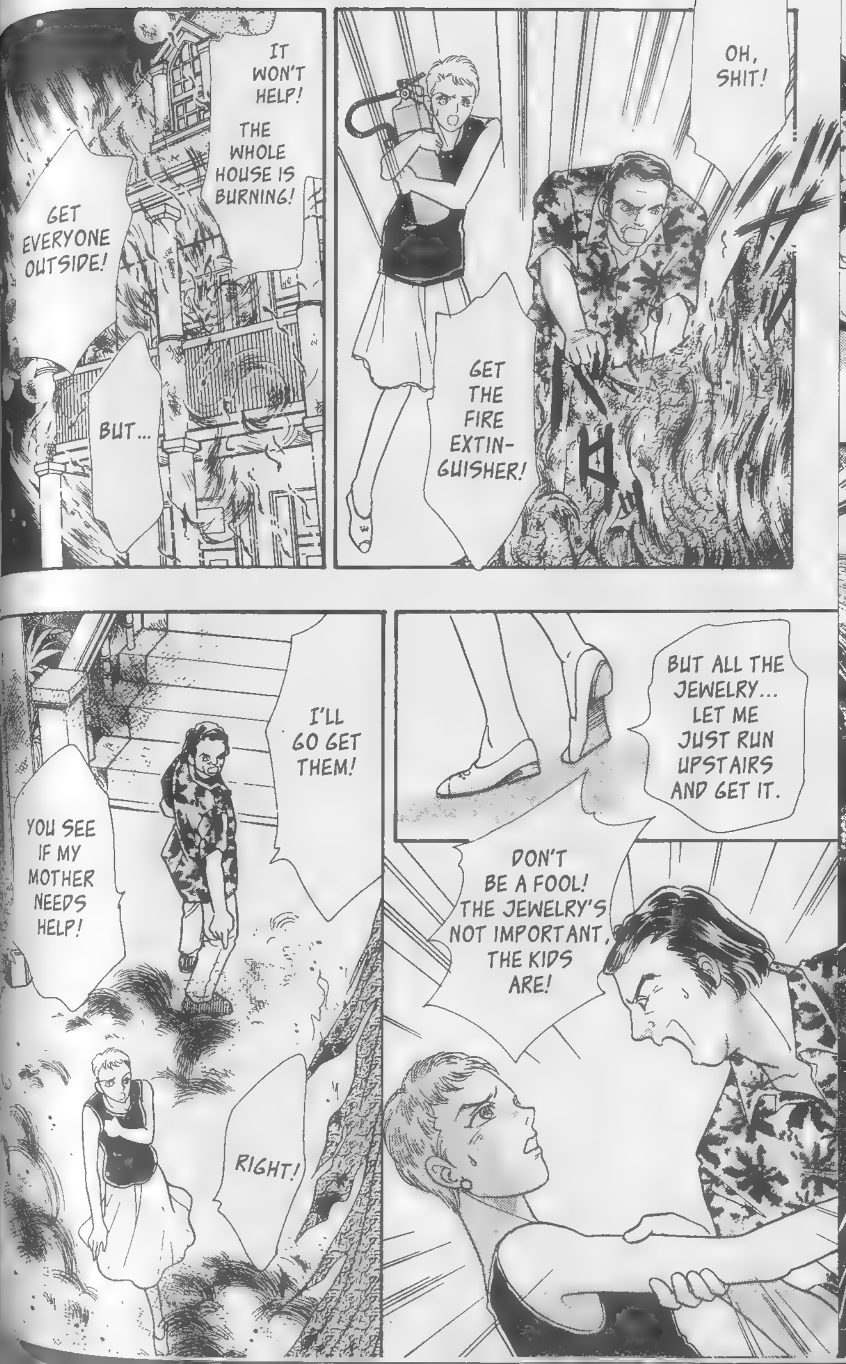

I'M REQUIRED TO TELL THEM IF THE HOUSE HAS AN UNUSUAL HISTORY
AND THAT'S JUST IT. NOTHING ODD HAS EVER HAPPENED IN THAT HOUSE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACCIDENTS, NO MURDERS...NO DEATHS AT ALL.
IN FACT, THE ONLY REAL INCIDENT IN THAT RESIDENCE'S 60-YEAR HISTORY TOOK PLACE 15 YEARS AGO, WHEN THE LASSER FAMILY ABANDONED THE HOUSE.
ABANDONED?
YEAH, THE ENTIRE FAMILY UP AND MOVED WITHOUT A WORD OF WARNING. SKIPPED OUT ON ALL THEIR BACK RENT.
I took a wash on that one. Who knew they were so stingy?
HOW BIG WAS THE FAMILY?
HUH? OH, THERE WERE FIVE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE. HUSBAND, WIFE, THEIR SON AND DAUGHTER, AND A GRANDMOTHER.
AH, WHAT A COINCIDENCE, THE SAME AS MR. WALLACE'S FAMILY.
THE AGES ARE A BIT DIFFERENT, THOUGH.
HUH? THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
THERE WERE SIX PEOPLE IN THE WALLACE FAMILY. THERE WAS A SECOND LITTLE GIRL.
SHE WAS ABOUT... 10 YEARS OLD.
Er
Uh

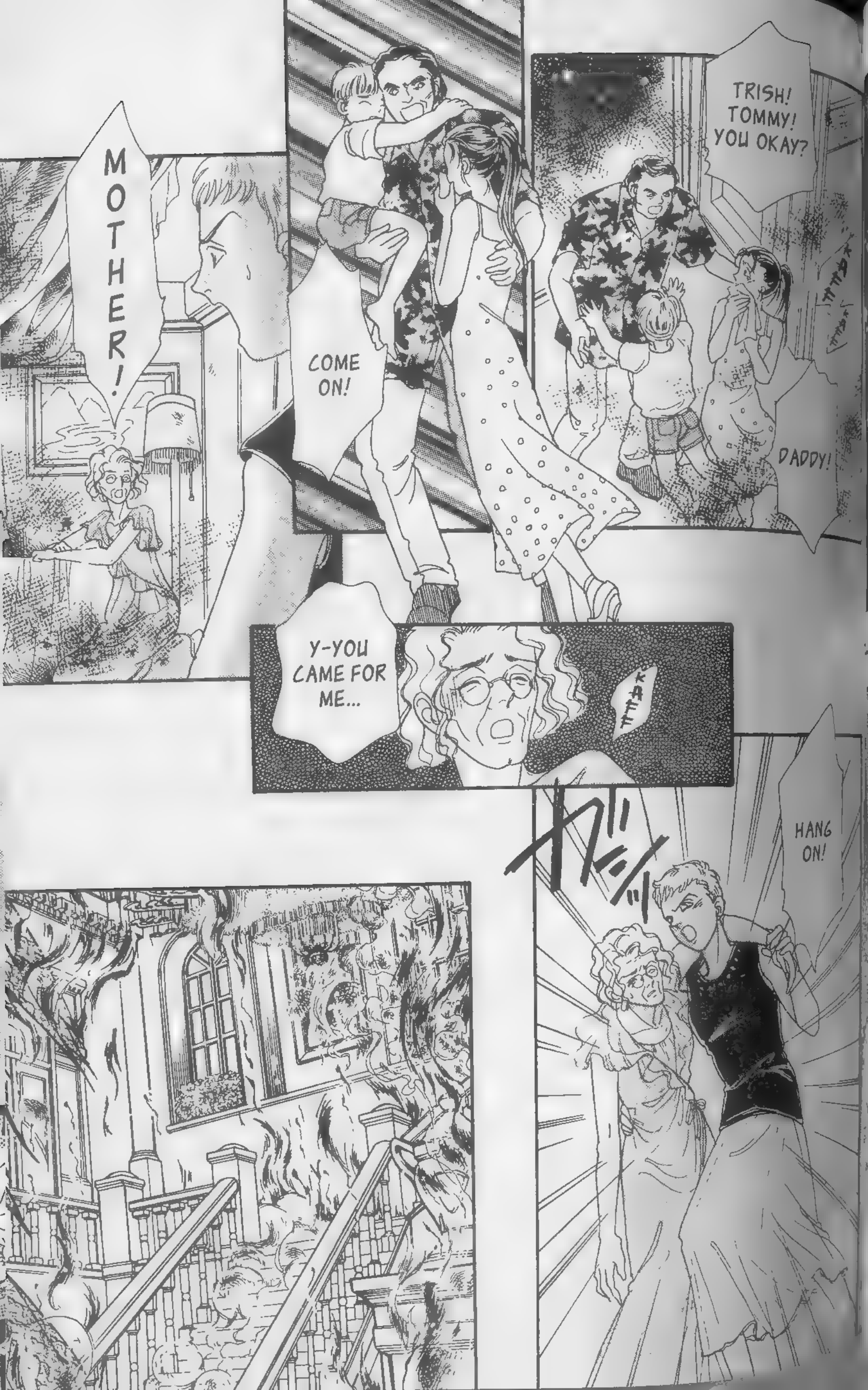

SO YOU'RE TAKING YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE AGAIN! YOU ALWAYS TAKE YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE!
OH, THIS IS POINTLESS. THIS ISN'T EVEN WORTH ARGUING OVER!
JUST GOT HOME FROM WORK, I'M TIRED--
WORK, WORK, WORK! THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE FOR EVERYTHING!
WILL YOU TWO CUT IT OUT?!
HOW CAN WE?! YOU'RE BEING SO LOUD...
...THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD CAN HEAR!
TRICIA, STAY OUT OF IT!
TRISH, WAIT!
....

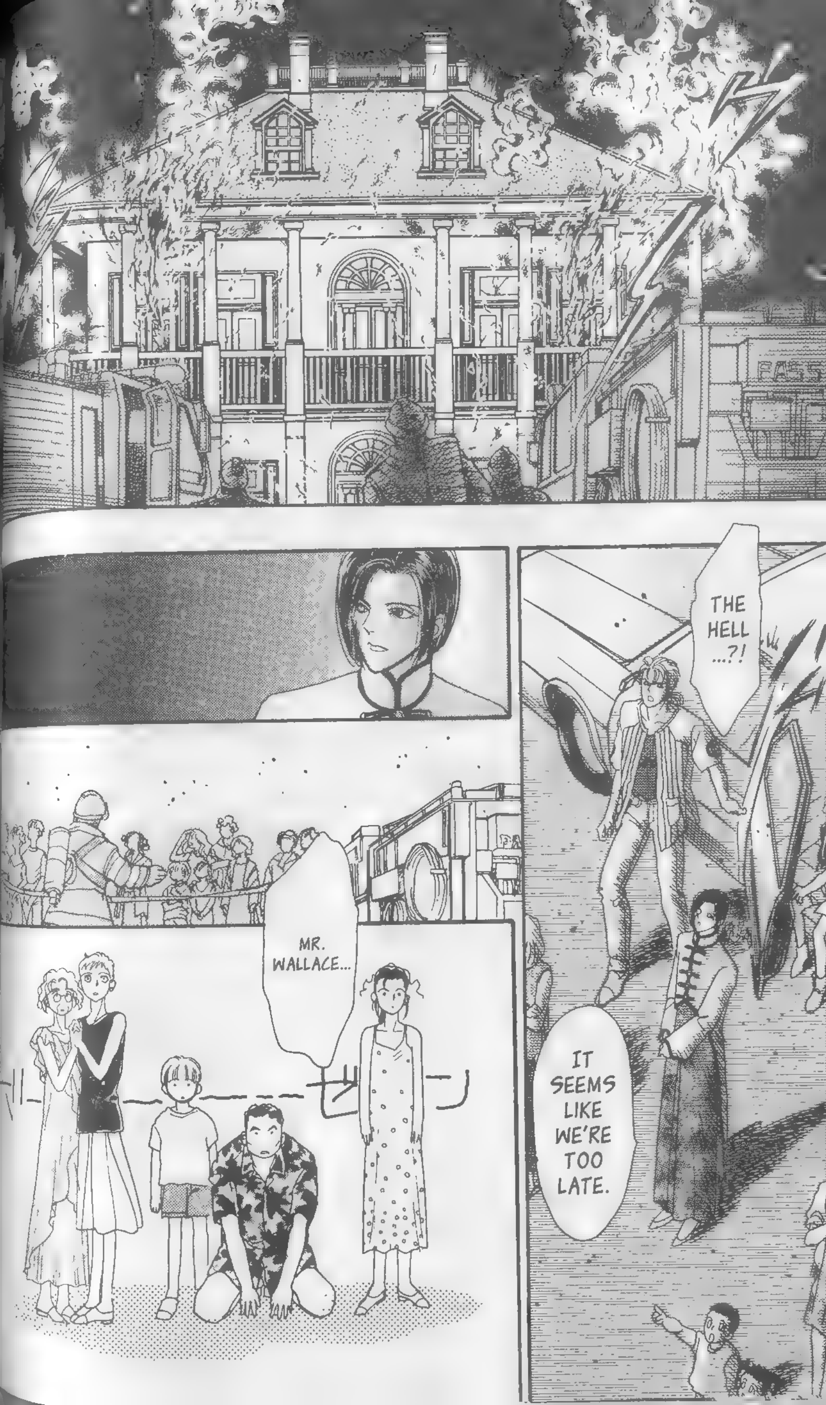

TEN-CHAN, STOP THEM!
IF I TAKE SIDES NOW, IT'LL JUST GET WORSE.
BETTER IF THEY JUST GET IT OUT OF THEIR SYSTEM.
BUT THAT'S ...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN LEAVE!
MOM, DAD...
PLEASE, STOP!!

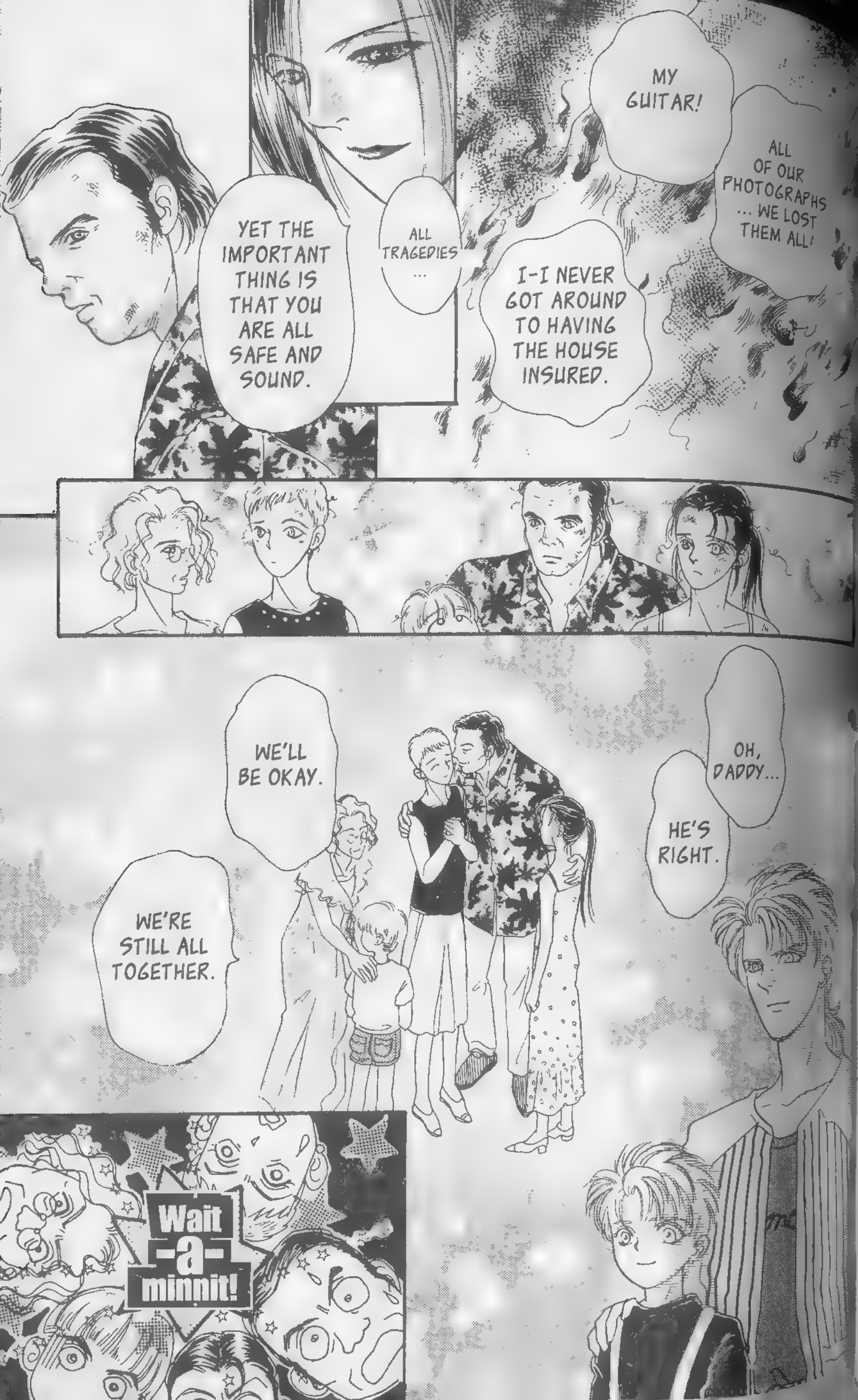

AAAAAAAH!
WH- WHAT'S THAT?!
OH, GOD!

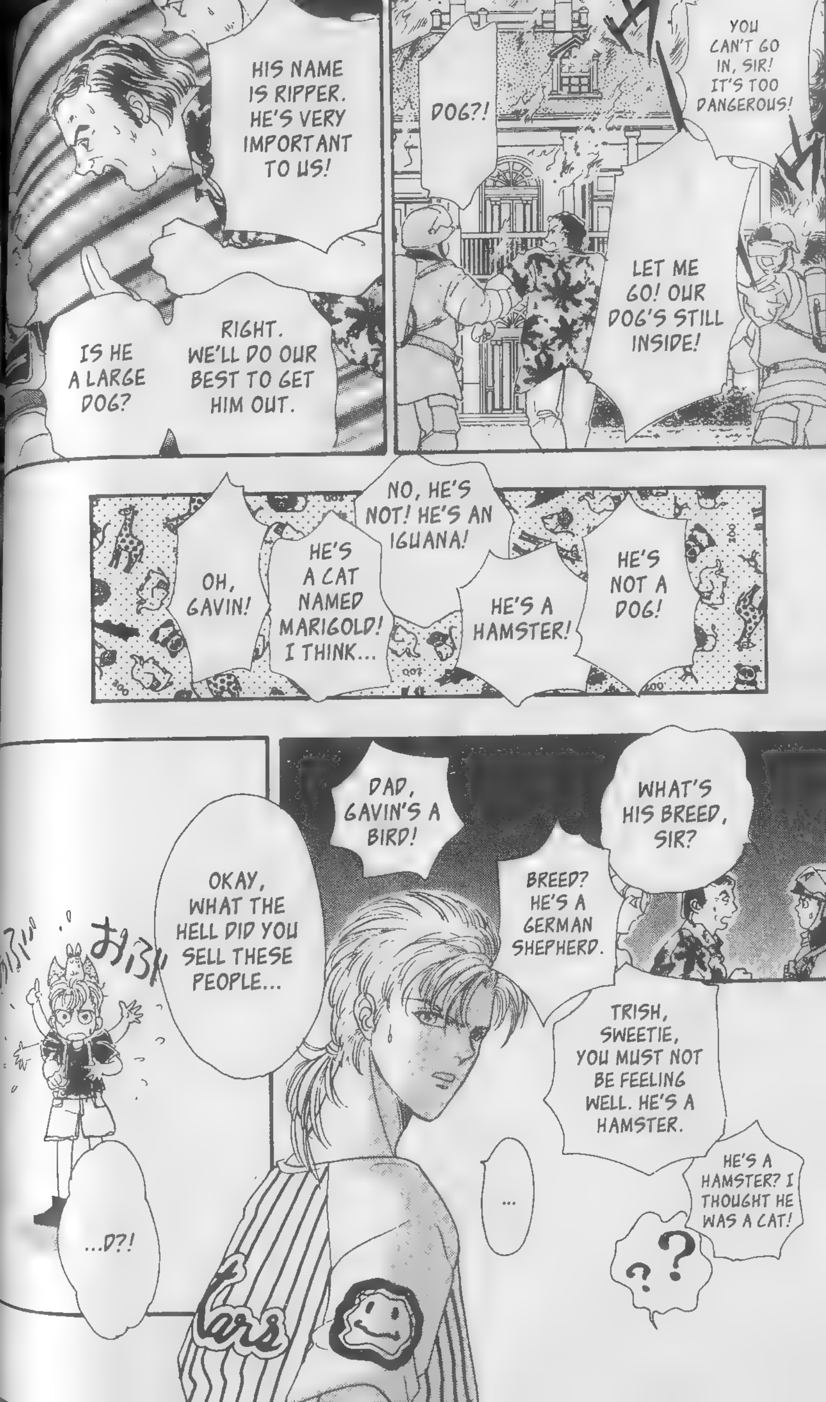

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?
WHY CAN'T THEY HEAR ME?
WHY CAN'T I STOP THEM ANYMORE?
HAVE I BEEN ABANDONED... AGAIN?
STOP IT....
STOOOOOOP!!!


OH, SHIT!
GET THE FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER!
IT WON'T HELP! THE WHOLE HOUSE IS BURNING!
GET EVERYONE OUTSIDE!
BUT...
BUT ALL THE JEWELRY... LET ME JUST RUN UPSTAIRS AND GET IT.
DON'T BE A FOOL! THE JEWELRY'S NOT IMPORTANT, THE KIDS ARE!
I'LL GO GET THEM!
YOU SEE IF MY MOTHER NEEDS HELP!
RIGHT!


TRISH! TOMMY! YOU OKAY?
DADDY!
KAFF KAFF
COME ON!
MOTHER!
Y-YOU CAME FOR ME...
KAFF
HANG ON!


THE HELL ...?!
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE TOO LATE.
MR. WALLACE...


MY GUITAR!
ALL OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHS ... WE LOST THEM ALL!
I-I NEVER GOT AROUND TO HAVING THE HOUSE INSURED.
ALL TRAGEDIES ...
YET THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU ARE ALL SAFE AND SOUND.
OH, DADDY...
HE'S RIGHT.
WE'LL BE OKAY.
WE'RE STILL ALL TOGETHER.
Wait-a-minnit!


YOU CAN'T GO IN, SIR! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
LET ME GO! OUR DOG'S STILL INSIDE!
DOG?!
HIS NAME IS RIPPER. HE'S VERY IMPORTANT TO US!
RIGHT. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO GET HIM OUT.
IS HE A LARGE DOG?
HE'S NOT A DOG!
NO, HE'S NOT! HE'S AN IGUANA!
HE'S A HAMSTER!
HE'S A CAT NAMED MARIGOLD! I THINK...
OH, GAVIN!
WHAT'S HIS BREED, SIR?
BREED? HE'S A GERMAN SHEPHERD.
DAD, GAVIN'S A BIRD!
TRISH, SWEETIE, YOU MUST NOT BE FEELING WELL. HE'S A HAMSTER.
HE'S A HAMSTER? I THOUGHT HE WAS A CAT!
...
??
OKAY, WHAT THE HELL DID YOU SELL THESE PEOPLE...
...D?!
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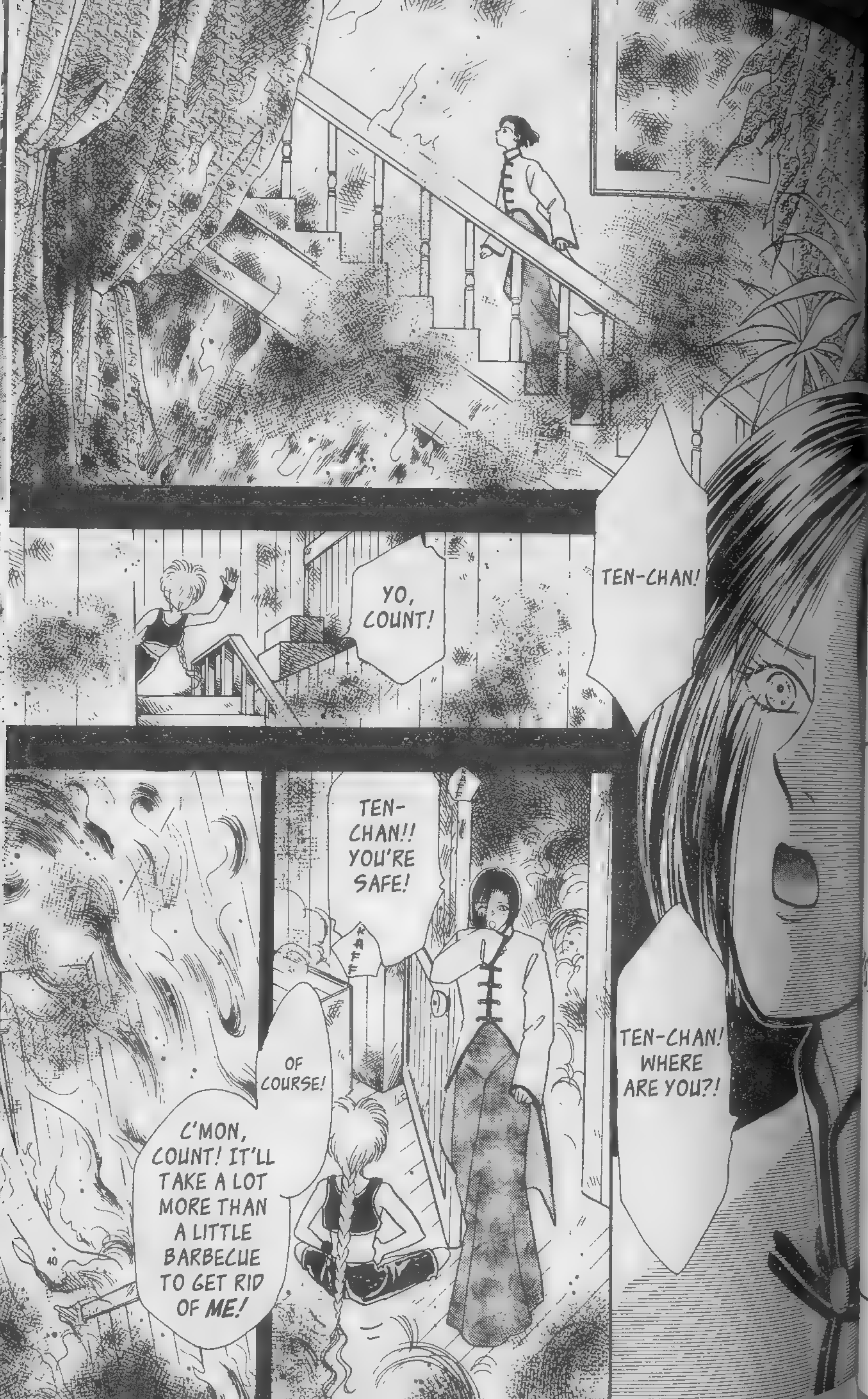
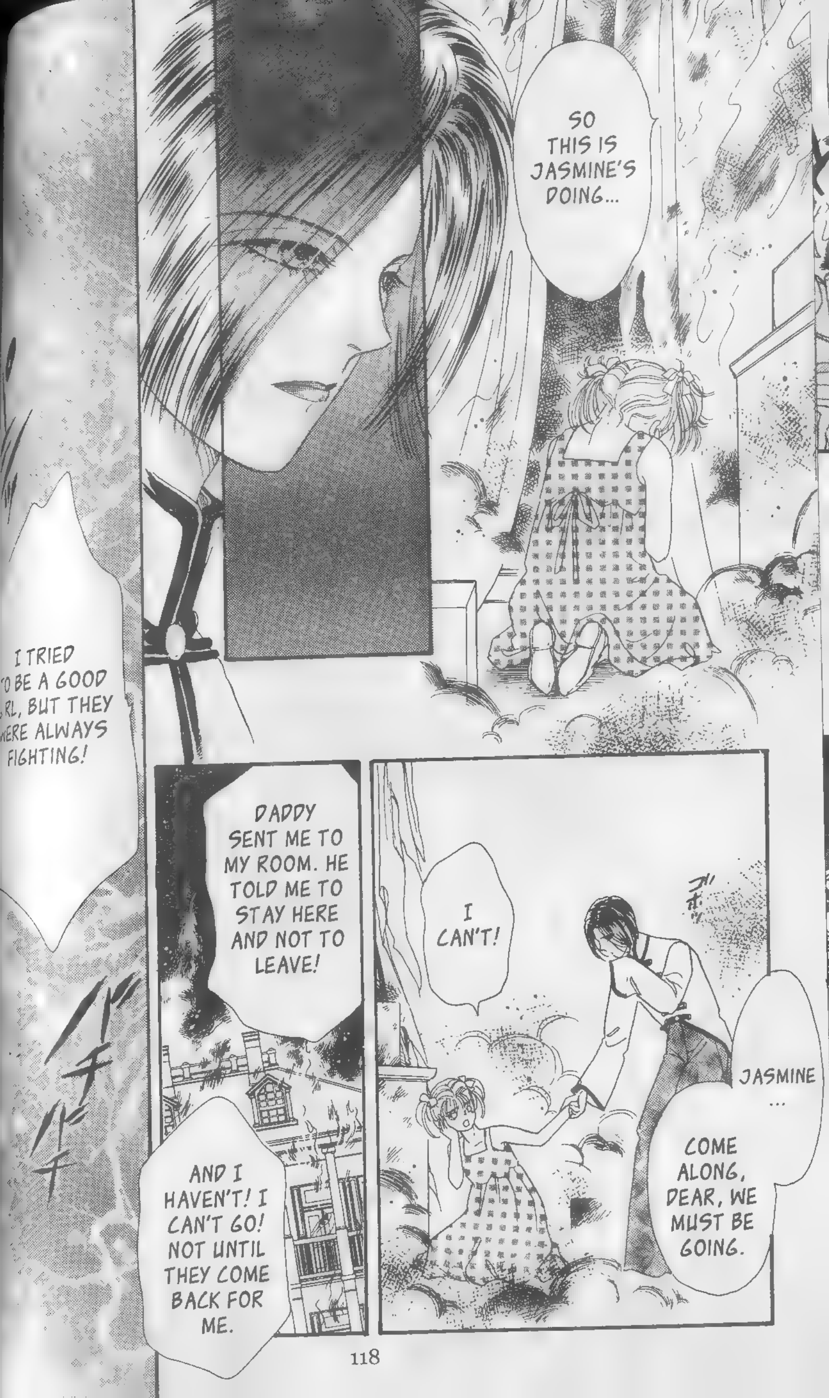
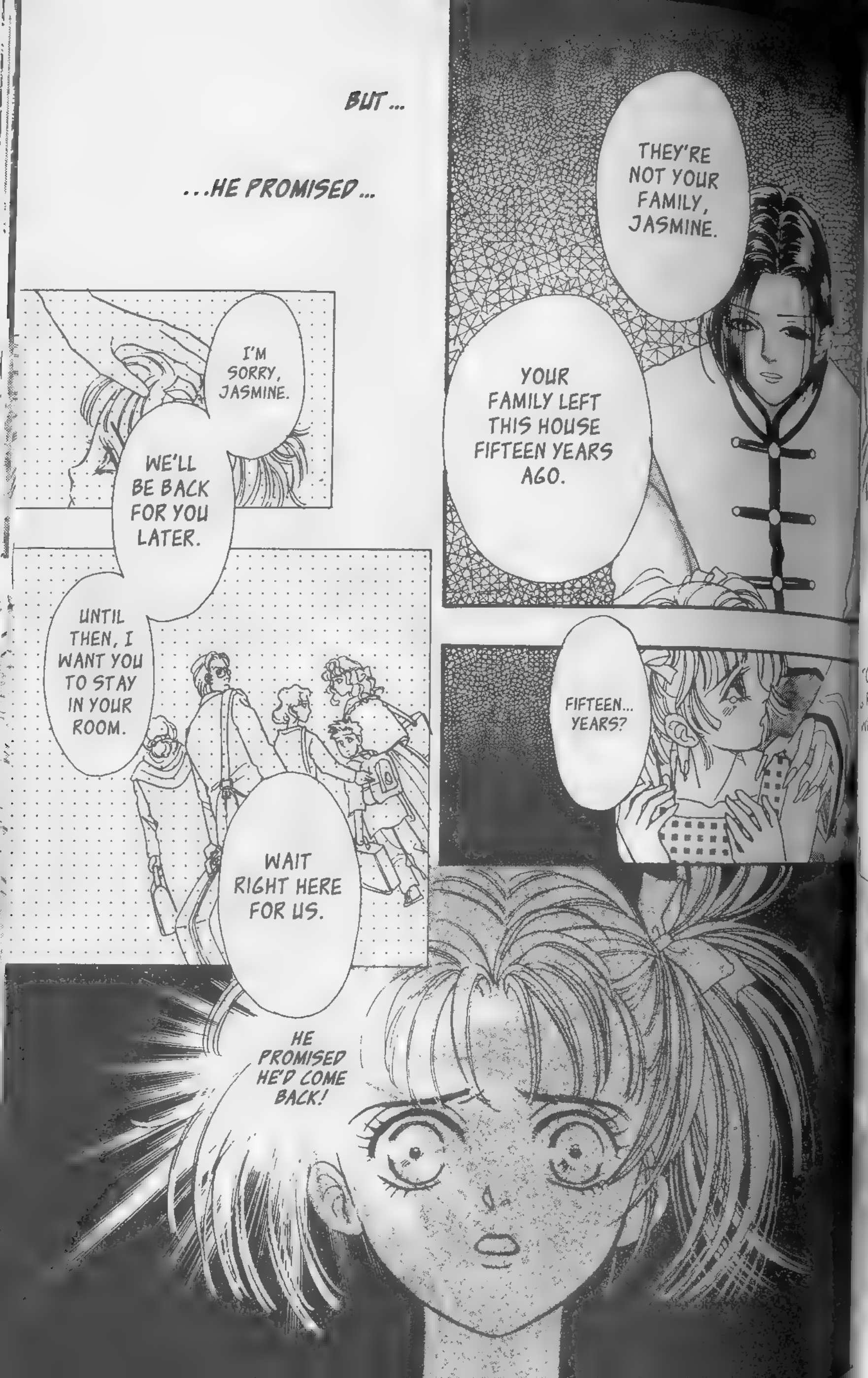
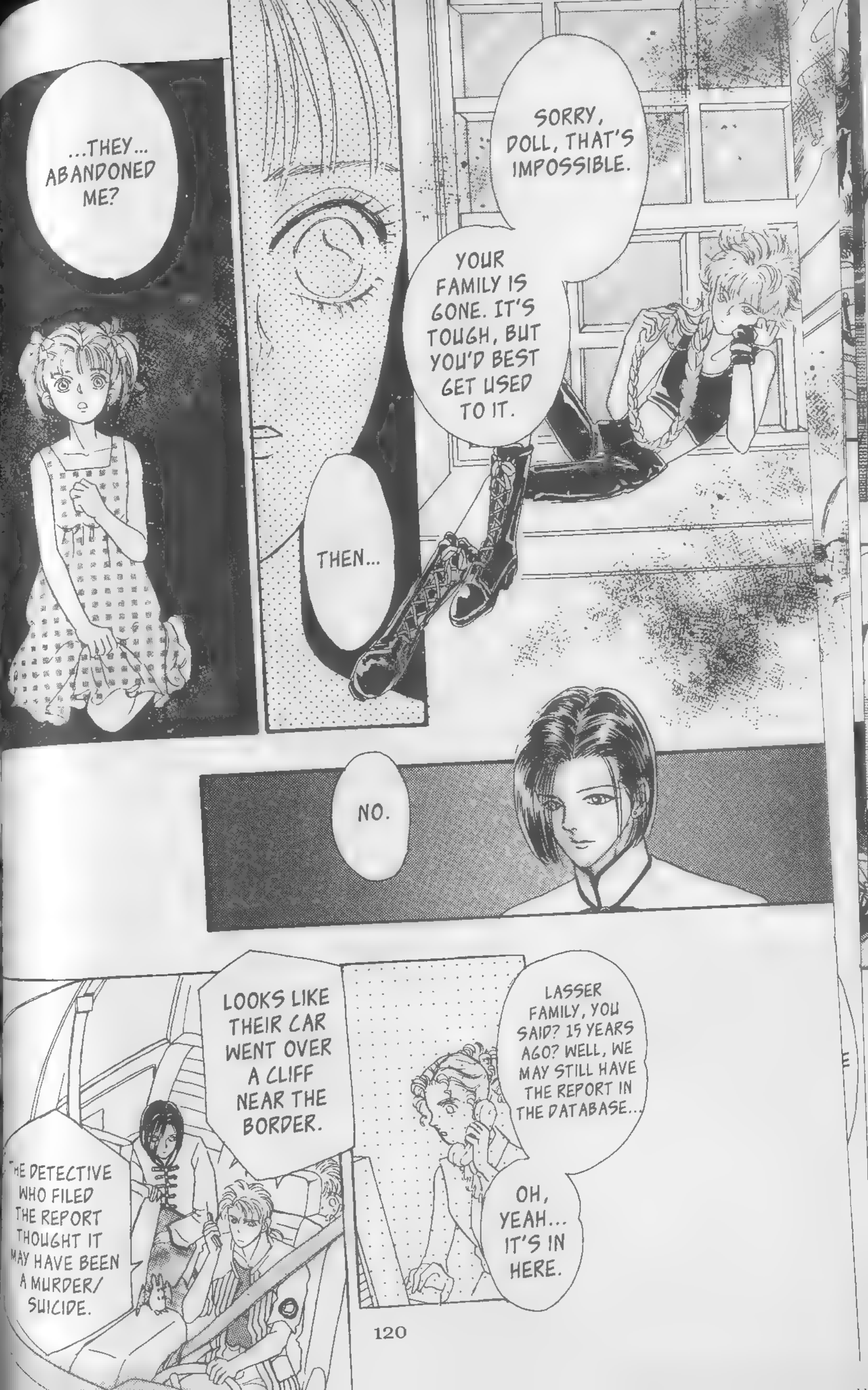
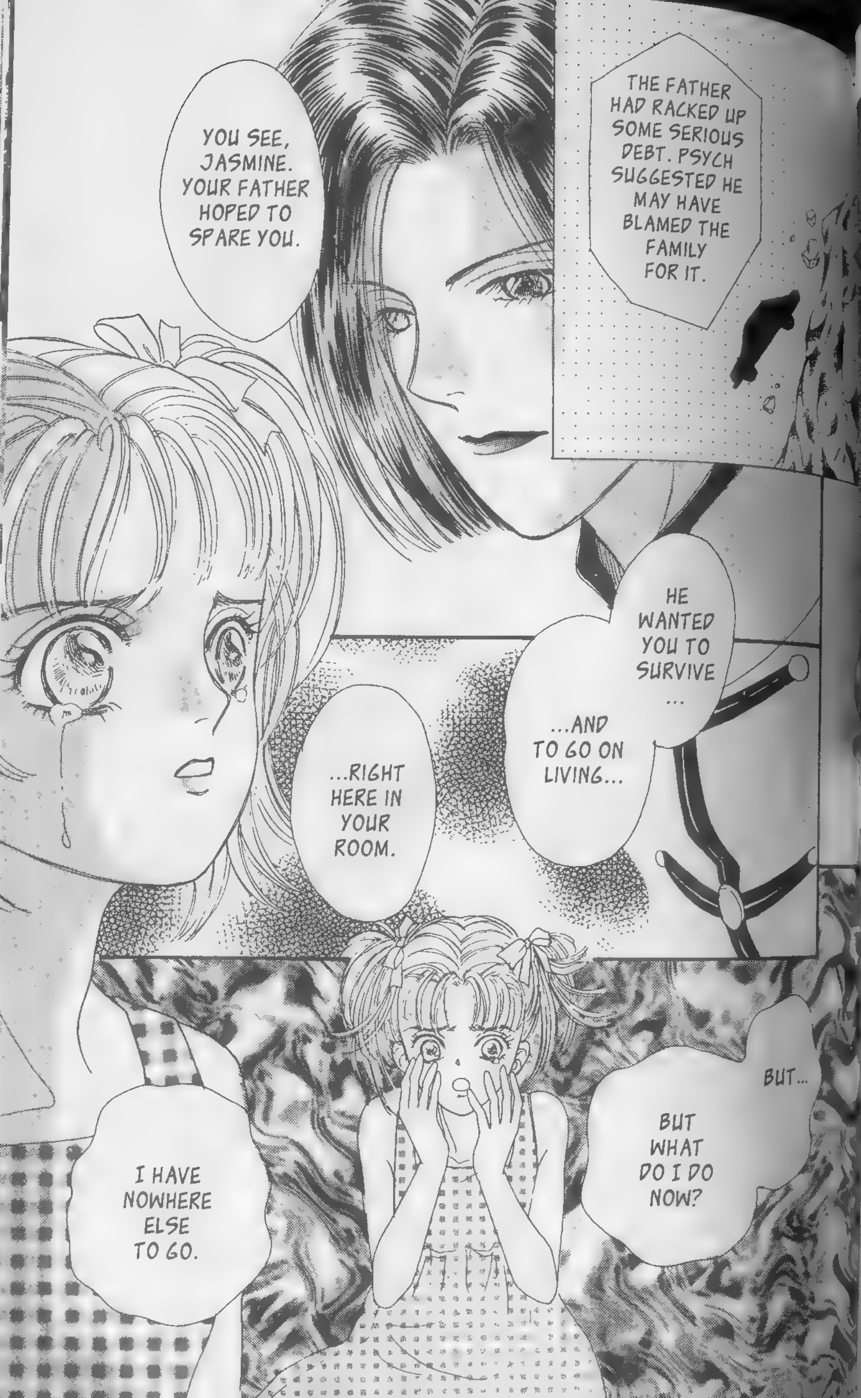
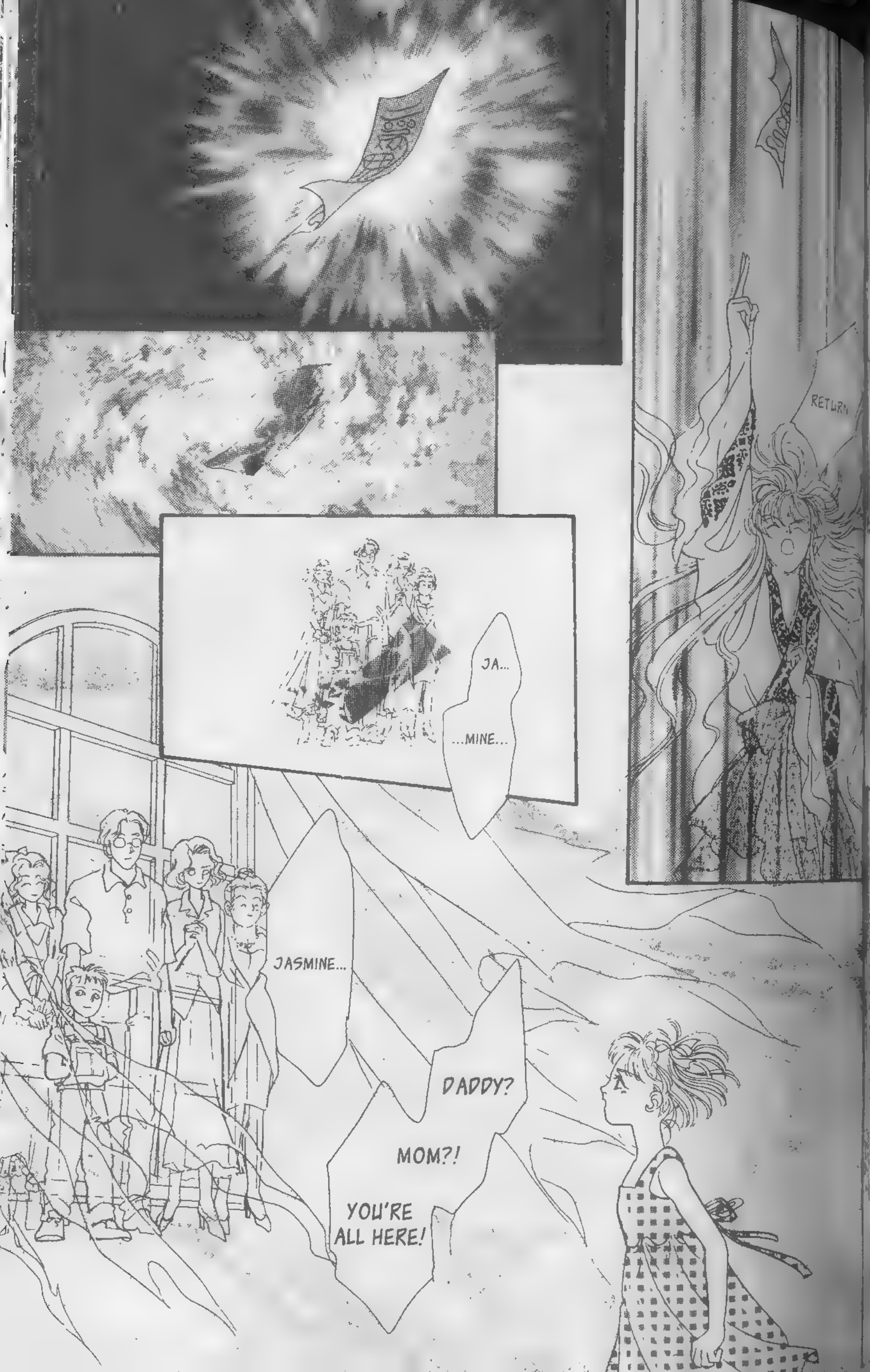

TEN-CHAN!
YO, COUNT!
TEN-CHAN! WHERE ARE YOU?!
TEN-CHAN!! YOU'RE SAFE!
OF COURSE!
C'MON, COUNT! IT'LL TAKE A LOT MORE THAN A LITTLE BARBECUE TO GET RID OF ME!

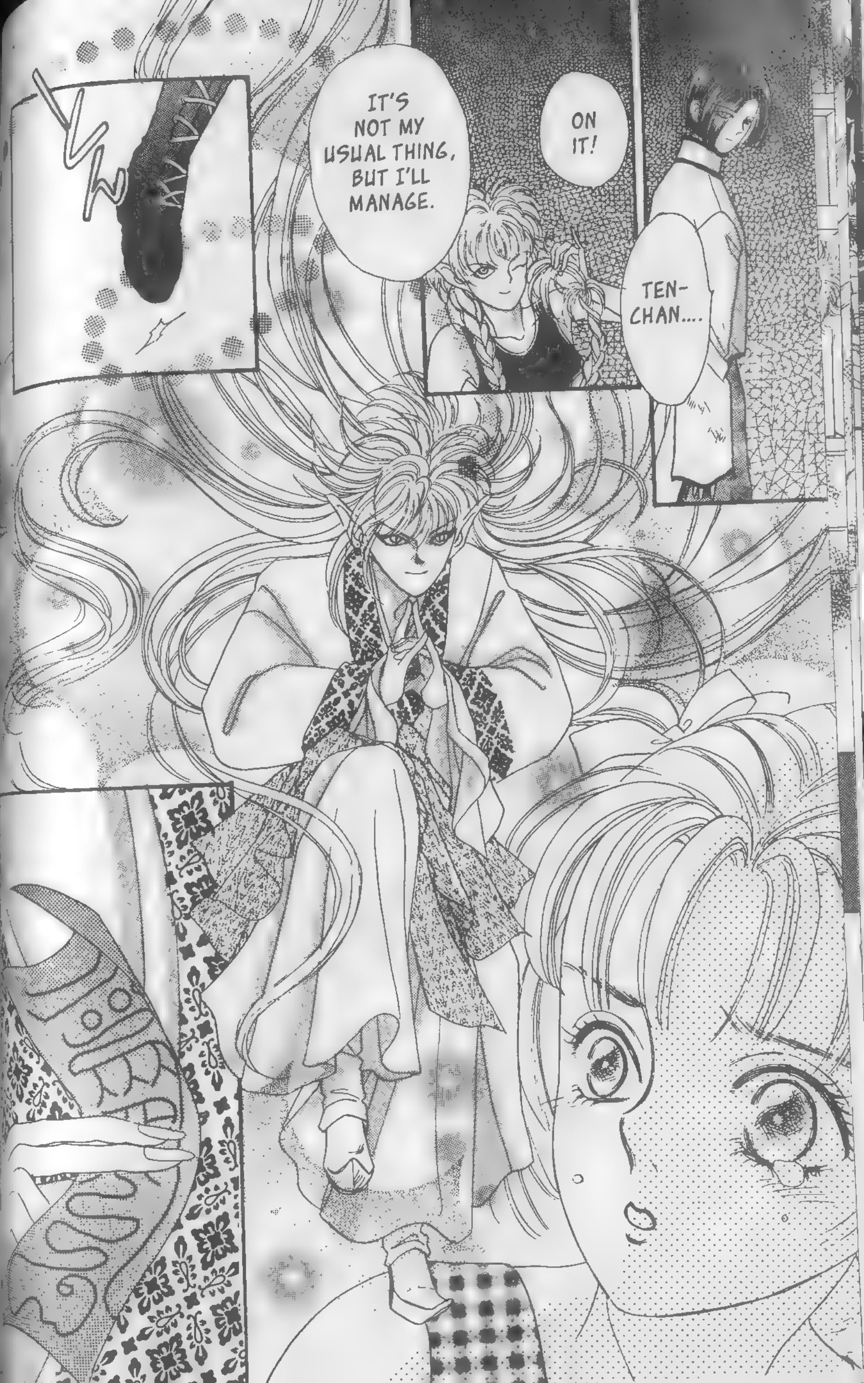

SO THIS IS JASMINE'S DOING...
I TRIED O BE A GOOD RL, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING!
JASMINE...
COME ALONG, DEAR, WE MUST BE GOING.
I CAN'T!
DADDY SENT ME TO MY ROOM. HE TOLD ME TO STAY HERE AND NOT TO LEAVE!
AND I HAVEN'T! I CAN'T GO! NOT UNTIL THEY COME BACK FOR ME.

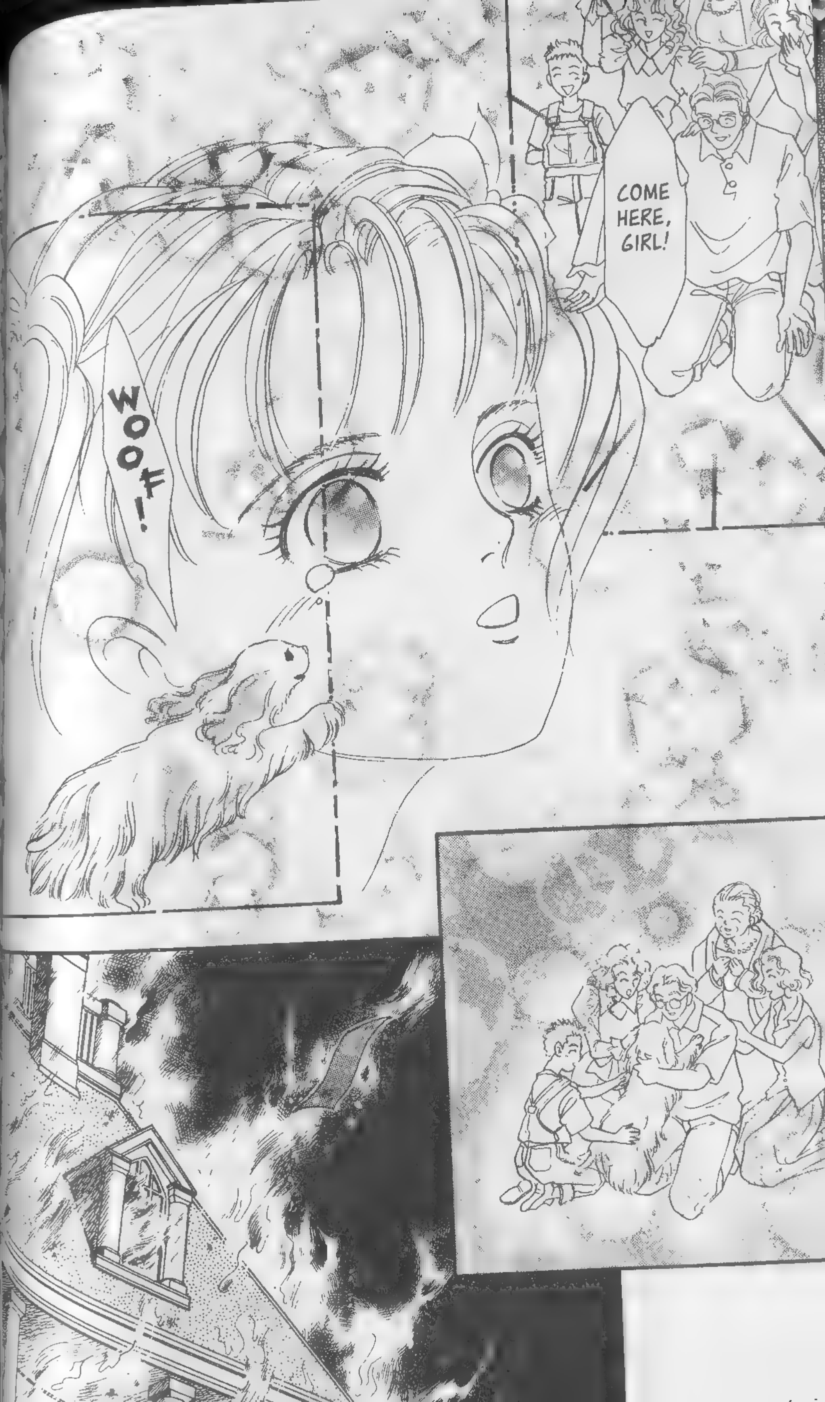

BUT...
...HE PROMISED...
THEY'RE NOT YOUR FAMILY, JASMINE.
YOUR FAMILY LEFT THIS HOUSE FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.
FIFTEEN... YEARS?
I'M SORRY, JASMINE.
WE'LL BE BACK FOR YOU LATER.
UNTIL THEN, I WANT YOU TO STAY IN YOUR ROOM.
WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR US.
HE PROMISED HE'D COME BACK!

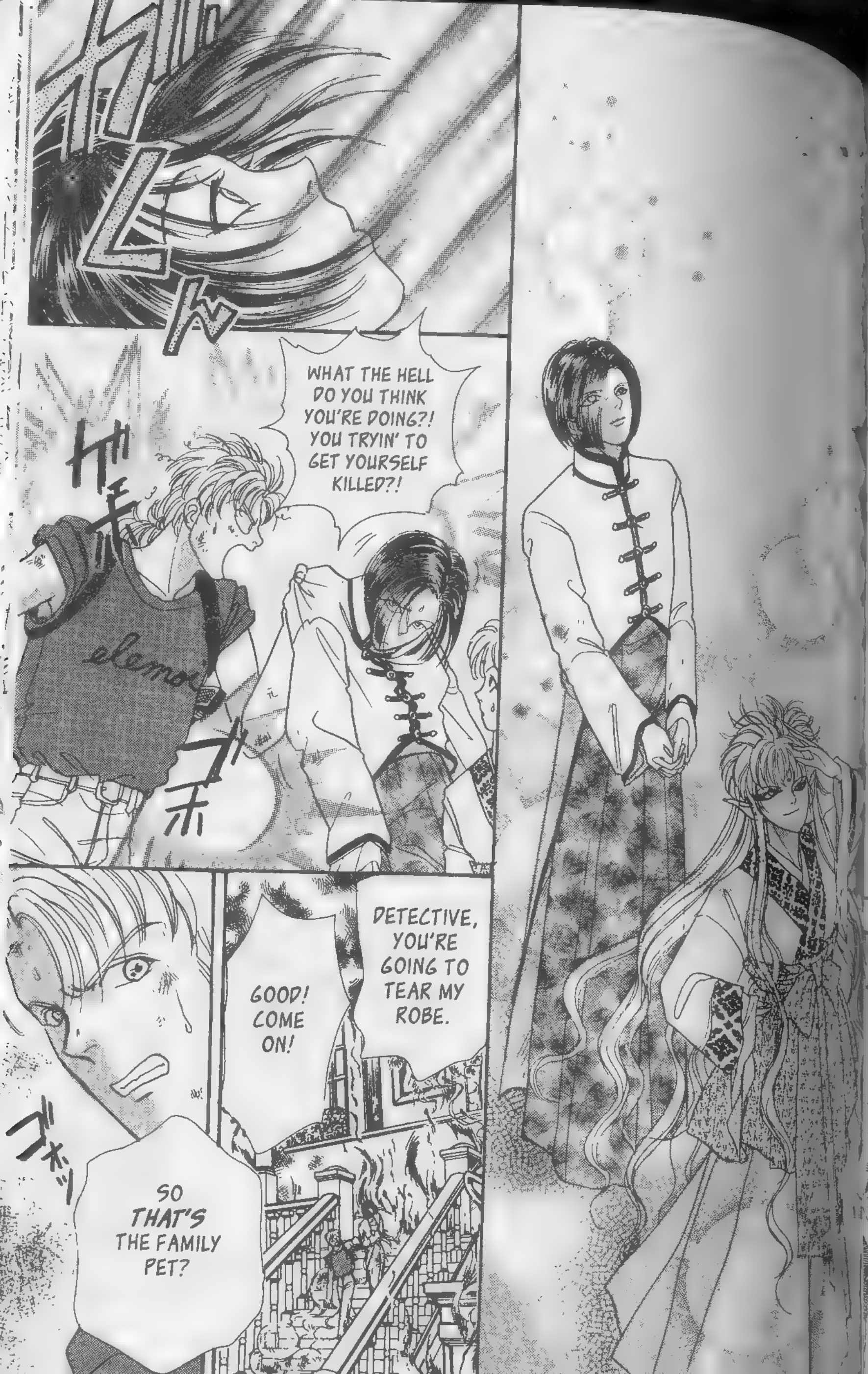

SORRY, DOLL, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
YOUR FAMILY IS GONE. IT'S TOUGH, BUT YOU'D BEST GET USED TO IT.
THEN...
...THEY... ABANDONED ME?
NO.
LASSER FAMILY, YOU SAID? 15 YEARS AGO? WELL, WE MAY STILL HAVE THE REPORT IN THE DATABASE...
OH, YEAH... IT'S IN HERE.
LOOKS LIKE THEIR CAR WENT OVER A CLIFF NEAR THE BORDER.
THE DETECTIVE WHO FILED THE REPORT THOUGHT IT MAY HAVE BEEN A MURDER/SUICIDE.


THE FATHER HAD RACKED UP SOME SERIOUS DEBT. PSYCH SUGGESTED HE MAY HAVE BLAMED THE FAMILY FOR IT.
YOU SEE, JASMINE. YOUR FATHER HOPED TO SPARE YOU.
HE WANTED YOU TO SURVIVE ...
...AND TO GO ON LIVING...
...RIGHT HERE IN YOUR ROOM.
BUT...
BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW?
I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.


RETURN
JA...
...MINE...
JASMINE...
DADDY?
MOM?!
YOU'RE ALL HERE!


IT'S NOT MY USUAL THING, BUT I'LL MANAGE.
ON IT!
TEN-CHAN....


COME HERE, GIRL!
WOOF!


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! YOU TRYIN' TO GET YOURSELF KILLED?!
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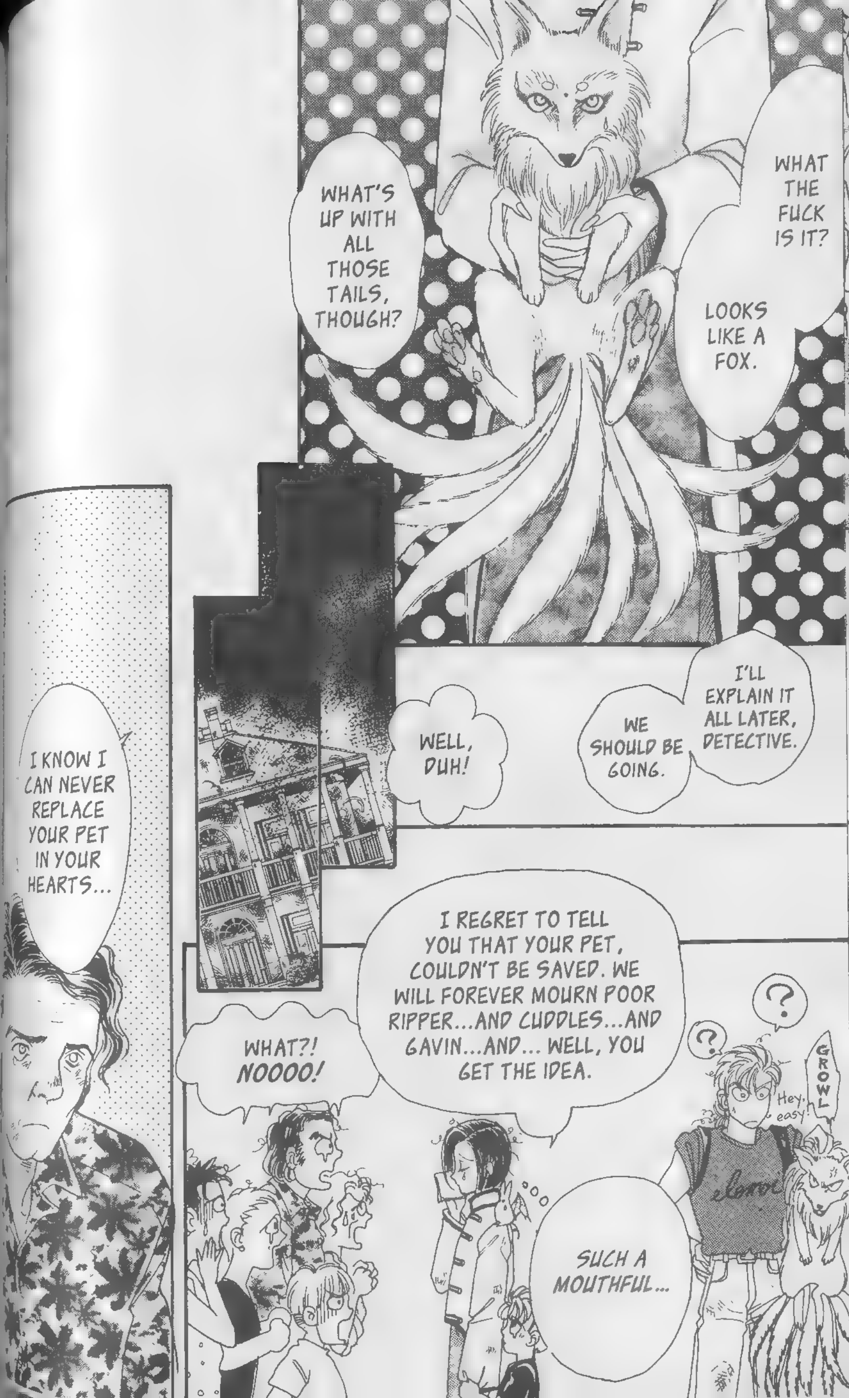
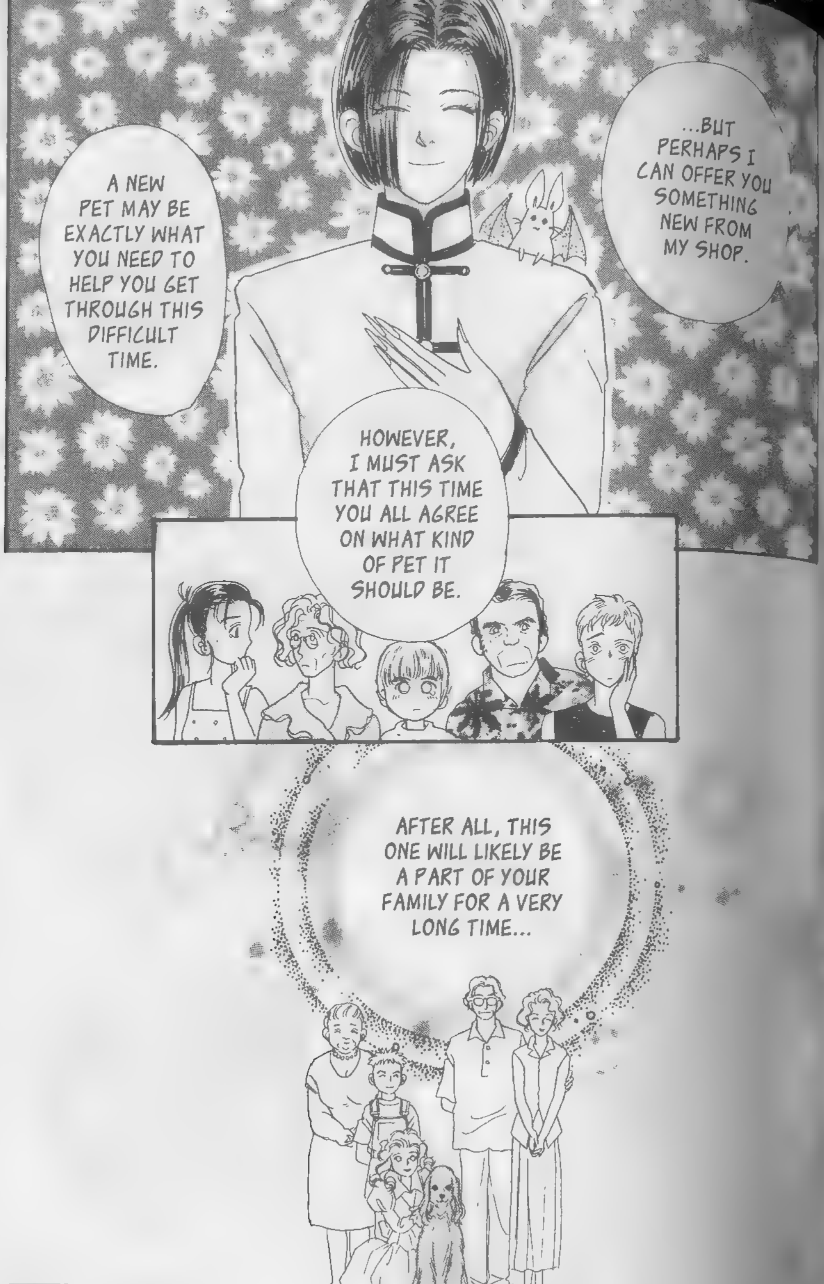
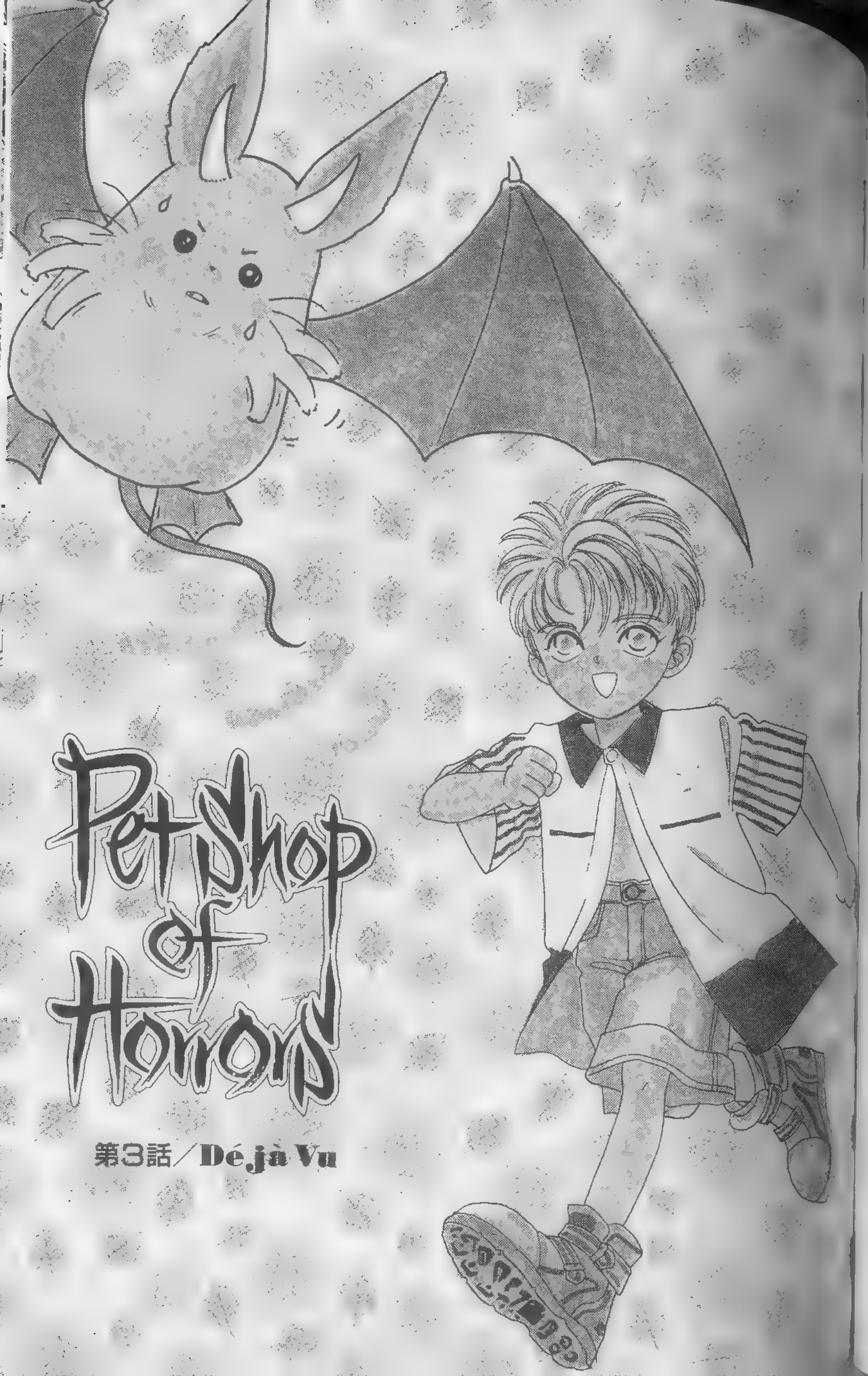
DETECTIVE, YOU'RE GOING TO TEAR MY ROBE.
GOOD! COME ON!
ゴホッ
SO *THAT'S* THE FAMILY PET?

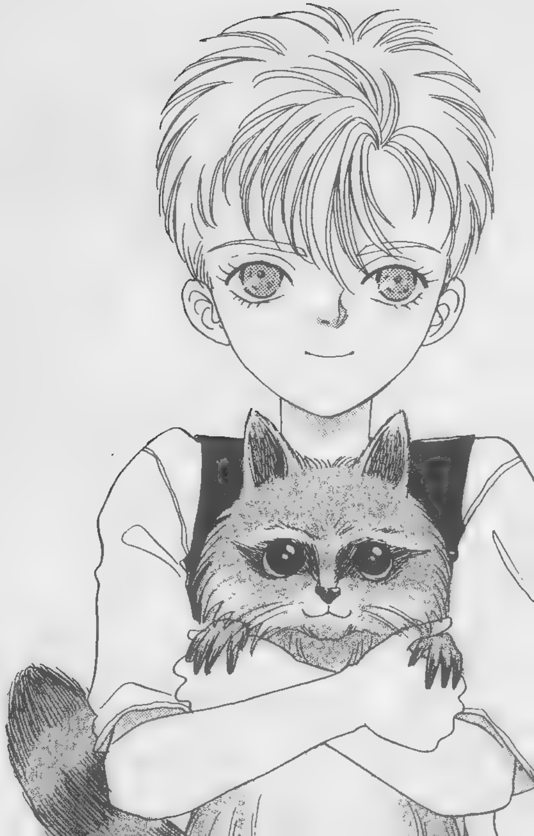

WHAT THE FUCK IS IT?
LOOKS LIKE A FOX.
WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THOSE TAILS, THOUGH?
I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL LATER, DETECTIVE.
WE SHOULD BE GOING.
WELL, DUH!
I REGRET TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR PET, COULDN'T BE SAVED. WE WILL FOREVER MOURN POOR RIPPER...AND CUDDLES...AND GAVIN...AND... WELL, YOU GET THE IDEA.
?
?
GROWL
Hey, easy
SUCH A MOUTHFUL...
WHAT?! NOOOO!
I KNOW I CAN NEVER REPLACE YOUR PET IN YOUR HEARTS...

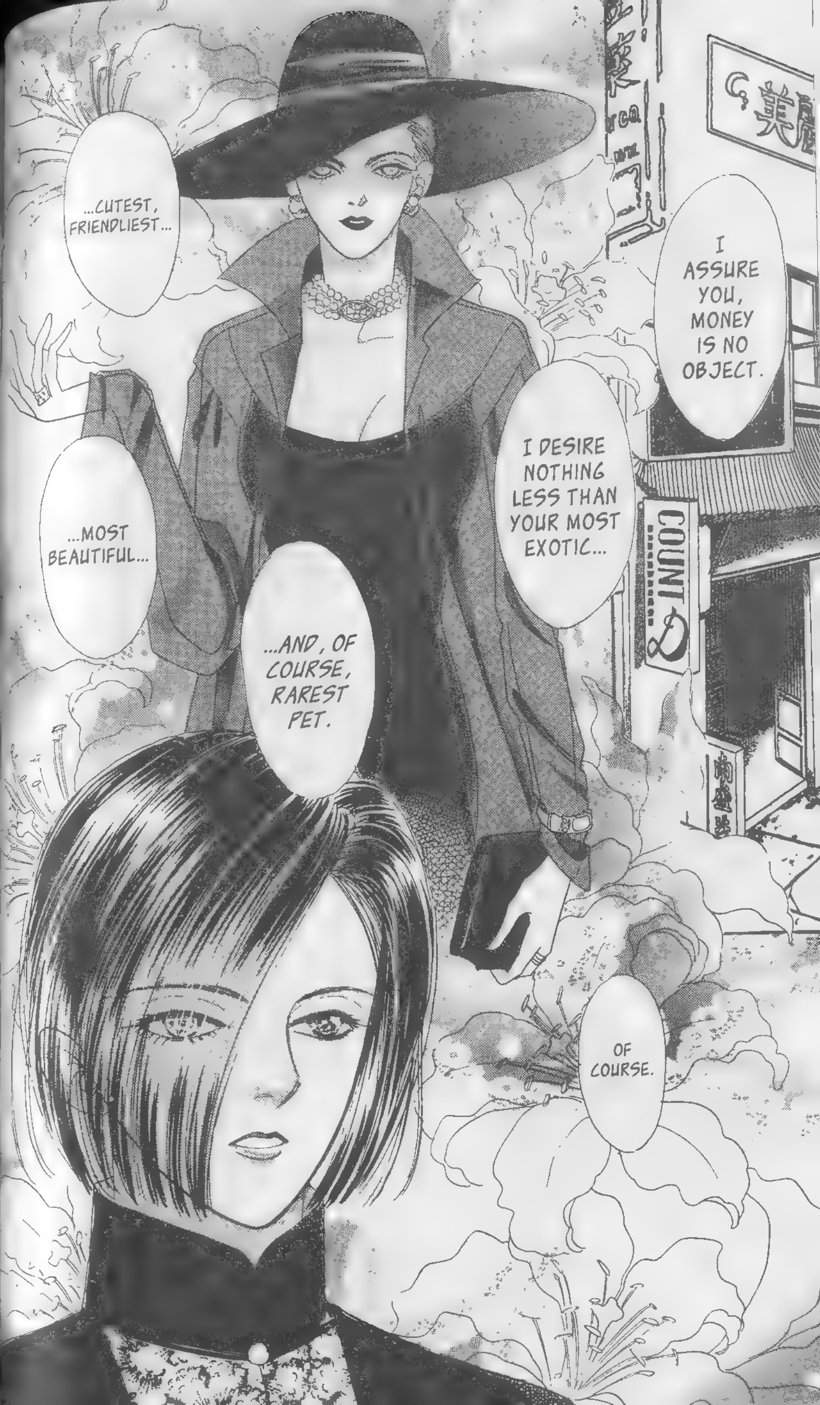

...BUT PERHAPS I CAN OFFER YOU SOMETHING NEW FROM MY SHOP.
A NEW PET MAY BE EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME.
HOWEVER, I MUST ASK THAT THIS TIME YOU ALL AGREE ON WHAT KIND OF PET IT SHOULD BE.
AFTER ALL, THIS ONE WILL LIKELY BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY FOR A VERY LONG TIME...

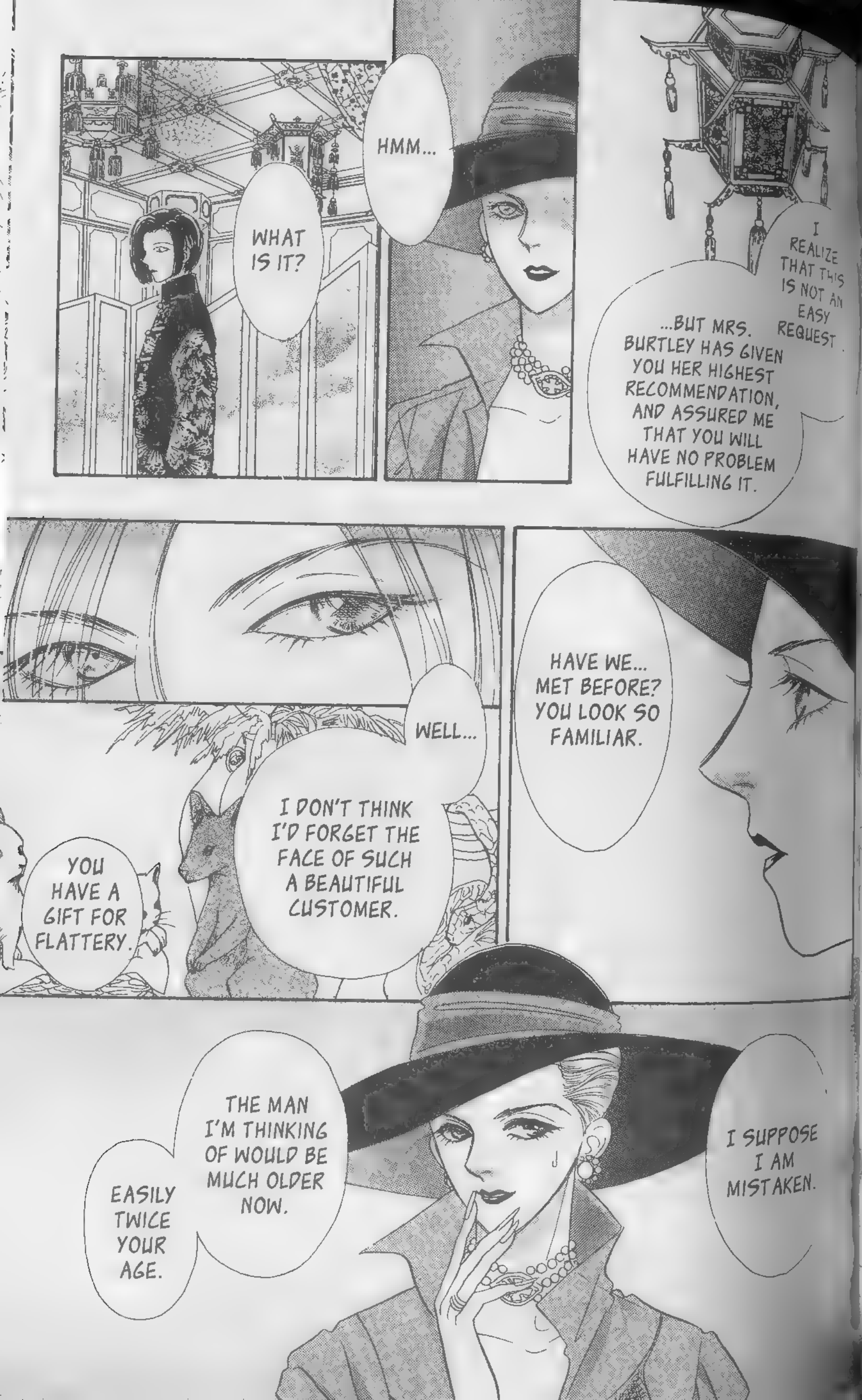
End of Episode 2

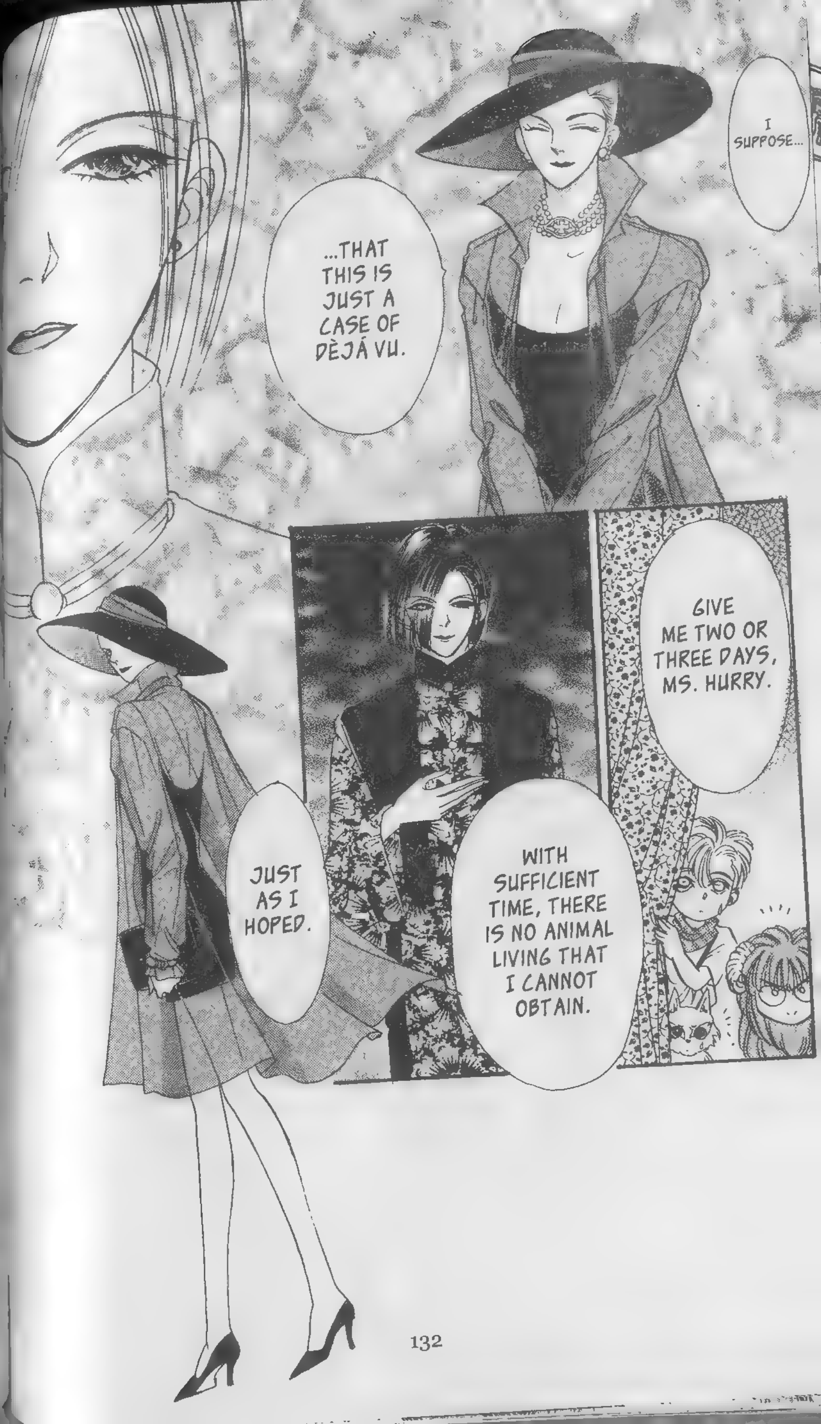

Petshop of Horrors

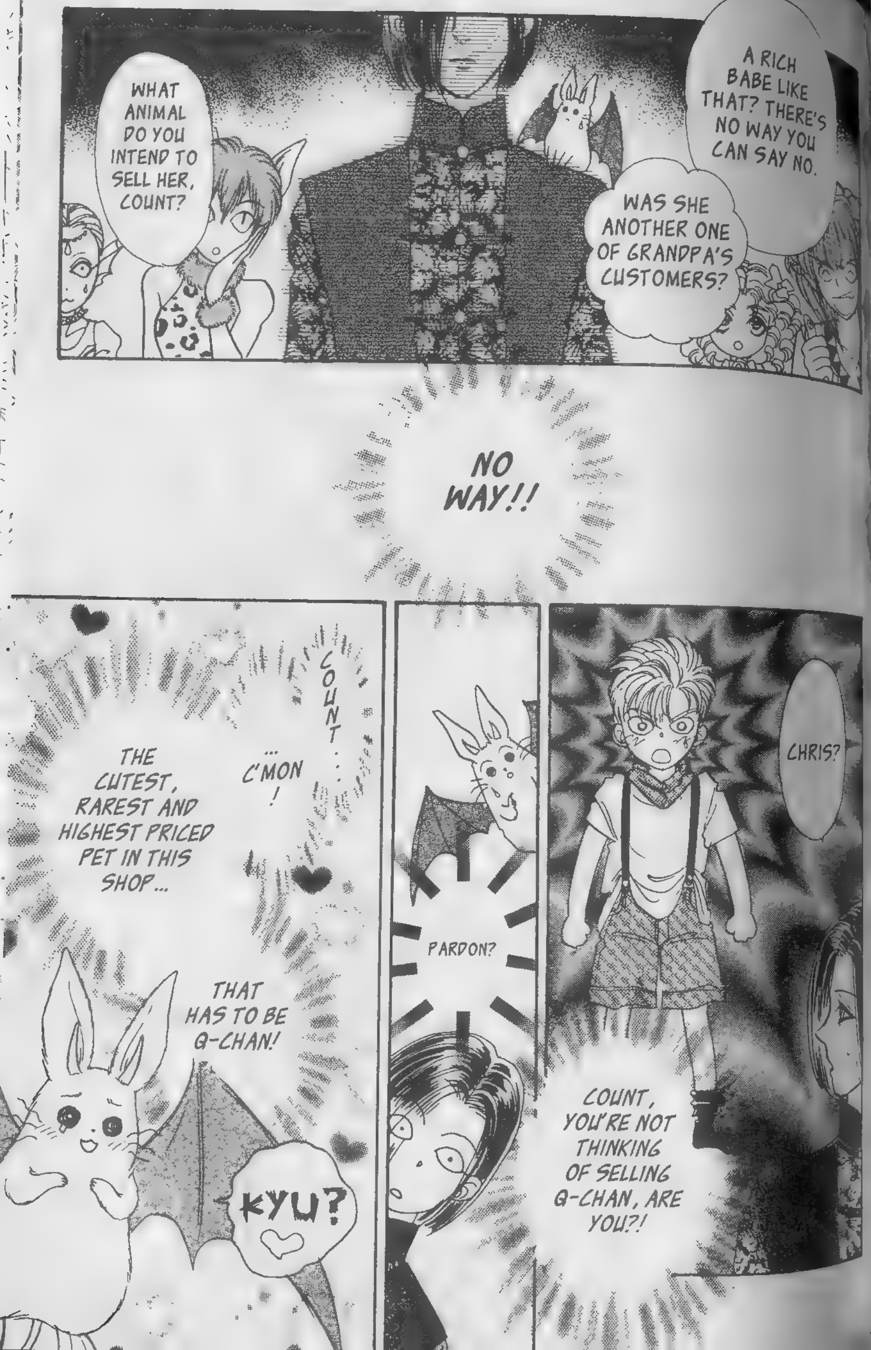
第3話／Déjà Vu

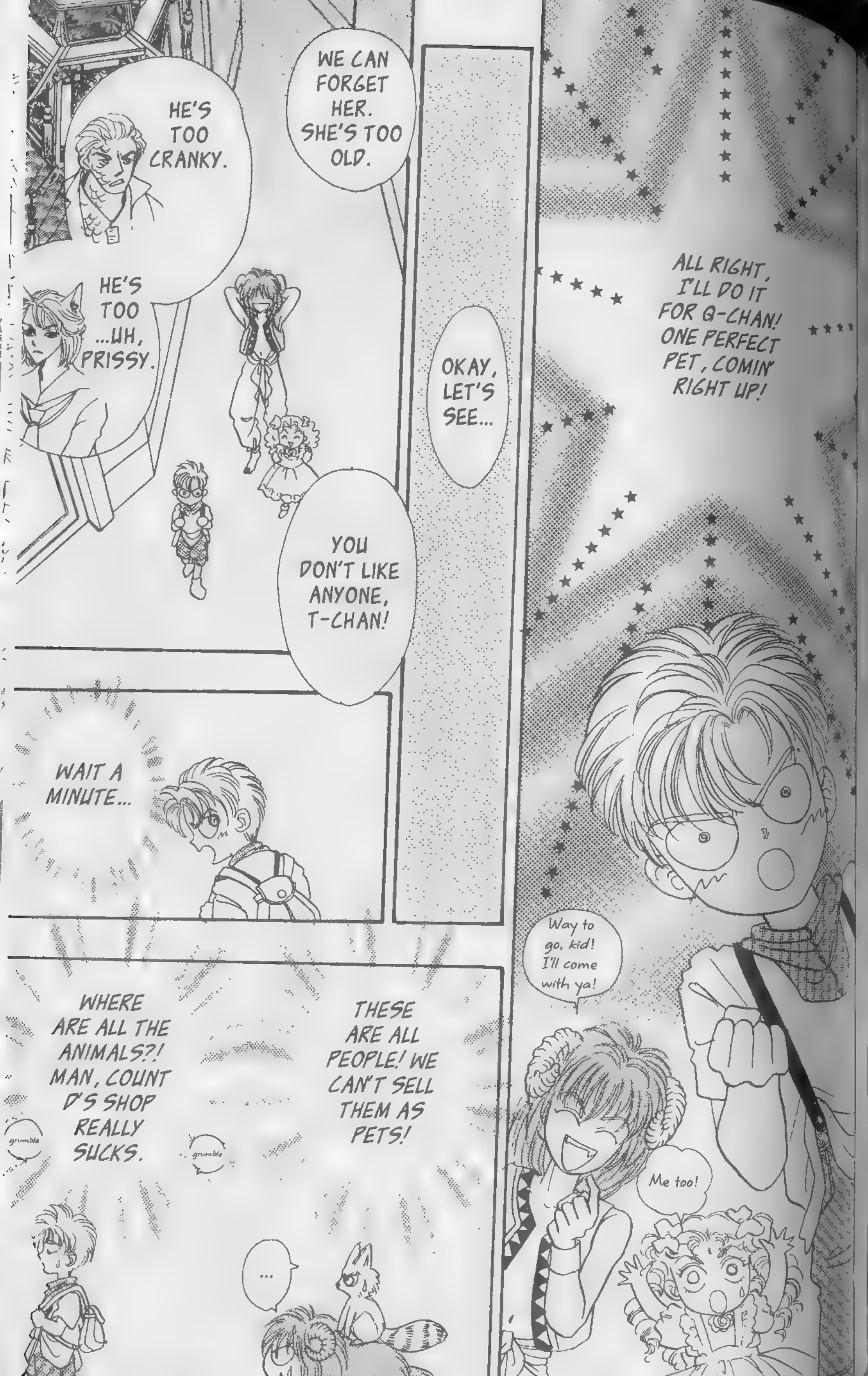


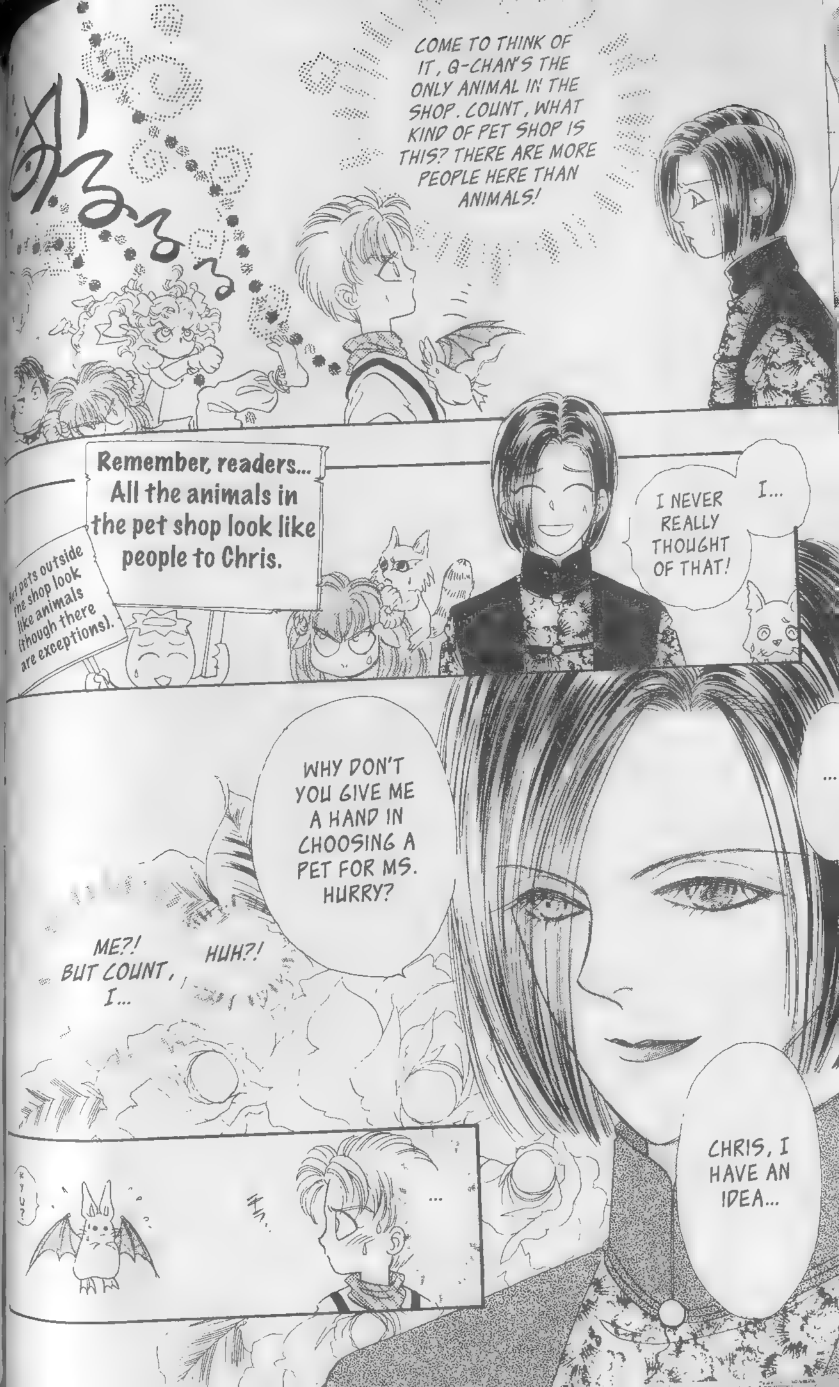

I ASSURE YOU, MONEY IS NO OBJECT.
I DESIRE NOTHING LESS THAN YOUR MOST EXOTIC...
...CUTEST, FRIENDLIEST...
...MOST BEAUTIFUL...
...AND, OF COURSE, RAREST PET.
OF COURSE.
COUNT D

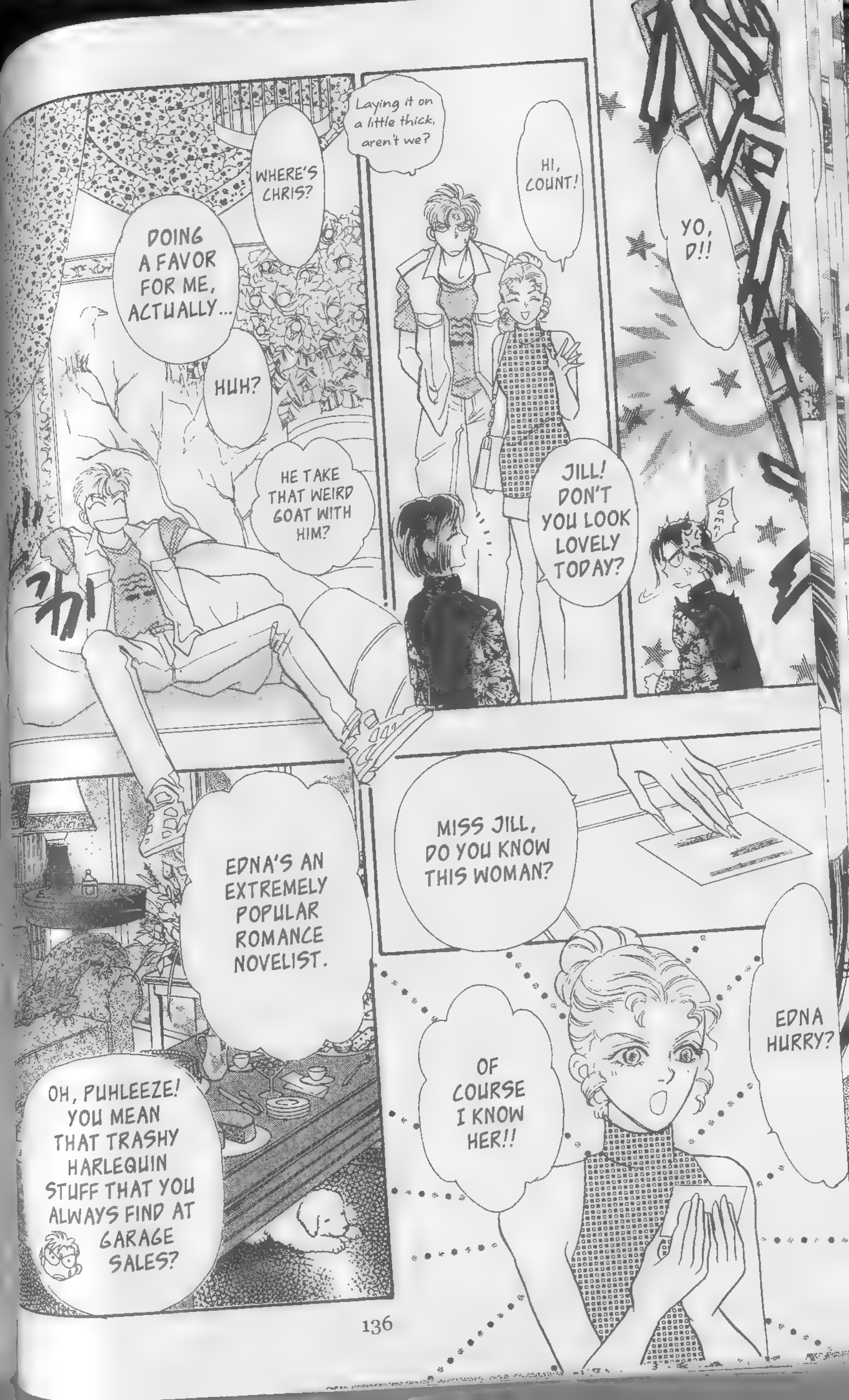

I REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT AN EASY REQUEST
...BUT MRS. BURTLEY HAS GIVEN YOU HER HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION, AND ASSURED ME THAT YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM FULFILLING IT.
HMM...
WHAT IS IT?
HAVE WE... MET BEFORE? YOU LOOK SO FAMILIAR.
WELL...
I DON'T THINK I'D FORGET THE FACE OF SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CUSTOMER.
YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR FLATTERY.
I SUPPOSE I AM MISTAKEN.
THE MAN I'M THINKING OF WOULD BE MUCH OLDER NOW.
EASILY TWICE YOUR AGE.

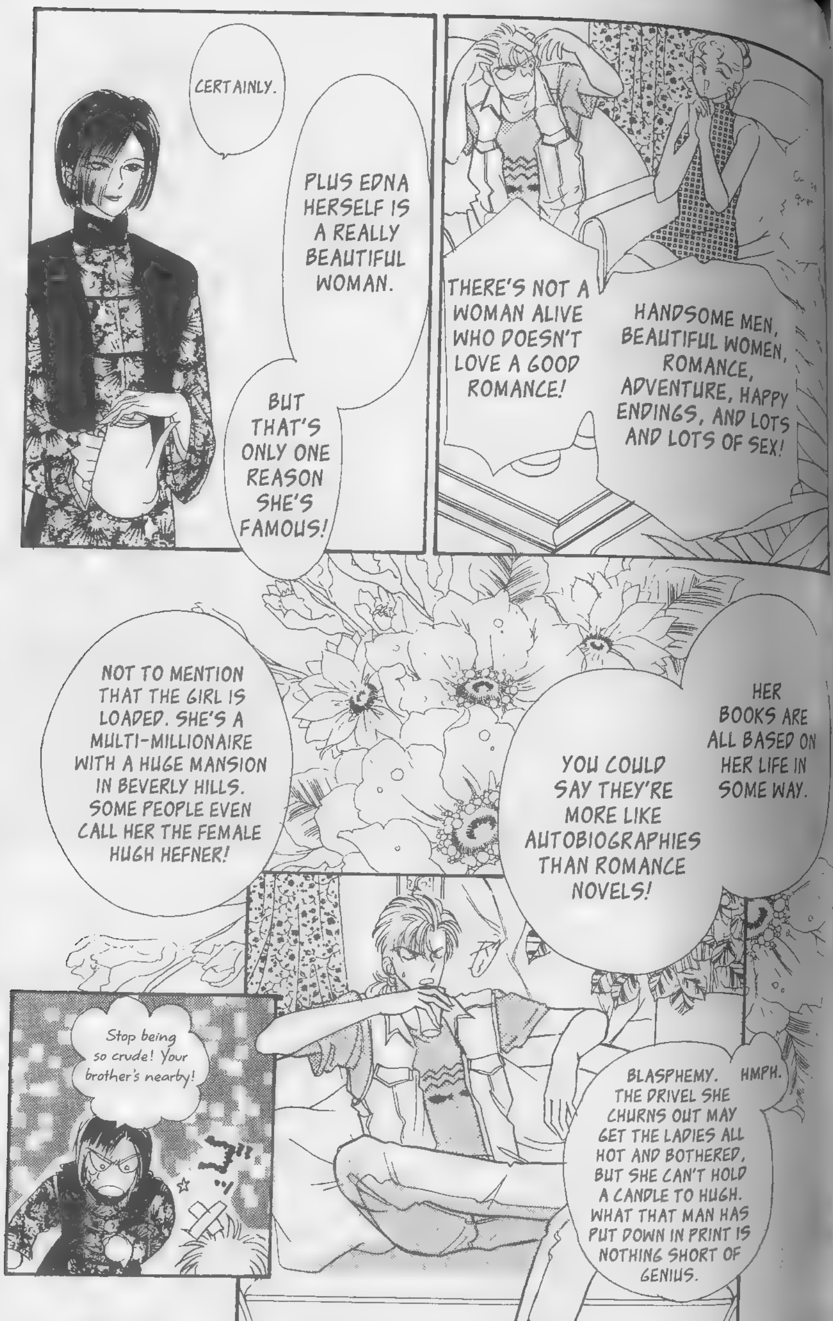

I SUPPOSE...
...THAT THIS IS JUST A CASE OF DÈJÁ VU.
GIVE ME TWO OR THREE DAYS, MS. HURRY.
WITH SUFFICIENT TIME, THERE IS NO ANIMAL LIVING THAT I CANNOT OBTAIN.
JUST AS I HOPED.

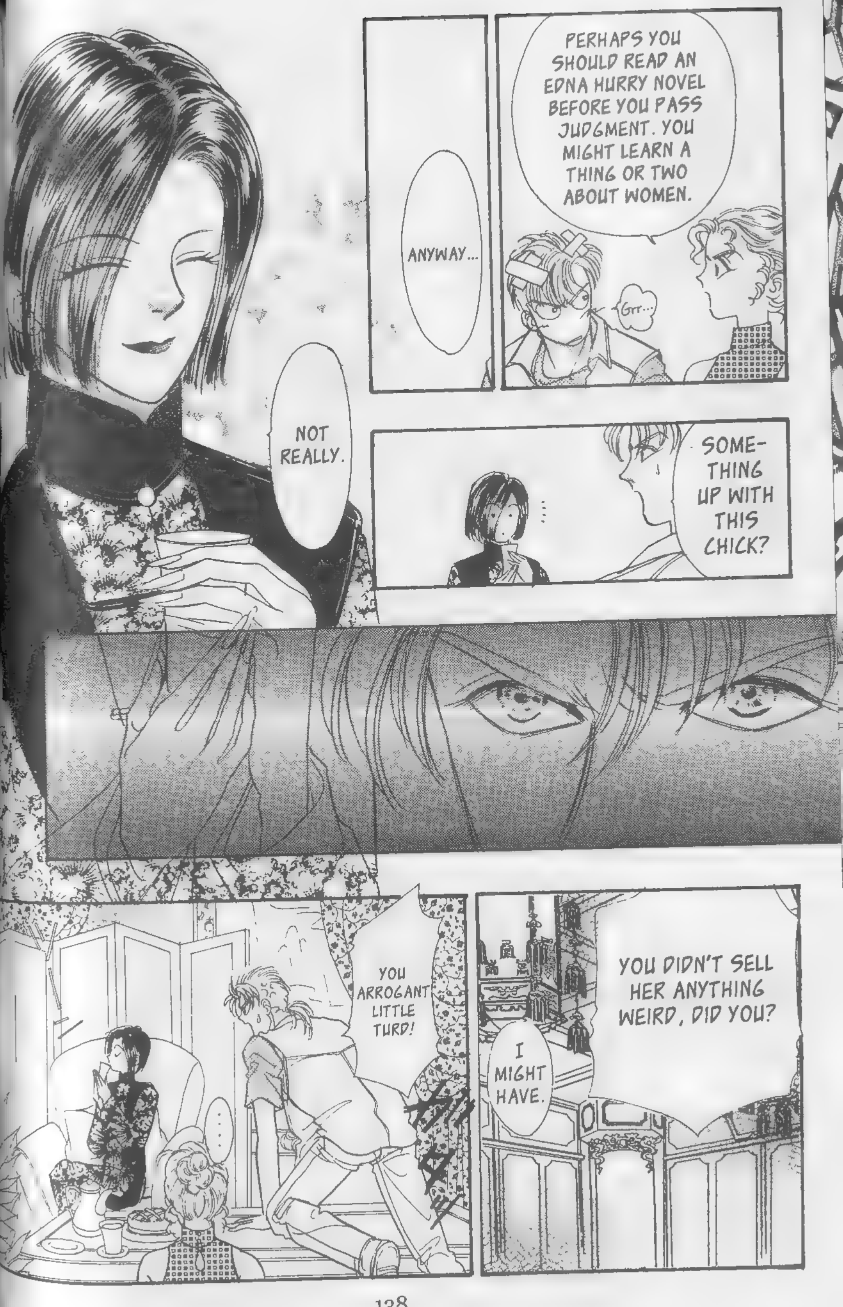

A RICH BABE LIKE THAT? THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN SAY NO.
WAS SHE ANOTHER ONE OF GRANDPA'S CUSTOMERS?
WHAT ANIMAL DO YOU INTEND TO SELL HER, COUNT?
NO WAY!!
CHRIS?
COUNT, YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF SELLING Q-CHAN, ARE YOU?!
PARDON?
COUNT...
...C'MON!
THE CUTEST, RAREST AND HIGHEST PRICED PET IN THIS SHOP...
THAT HAS TO BE Q-CHAN!
KYU?

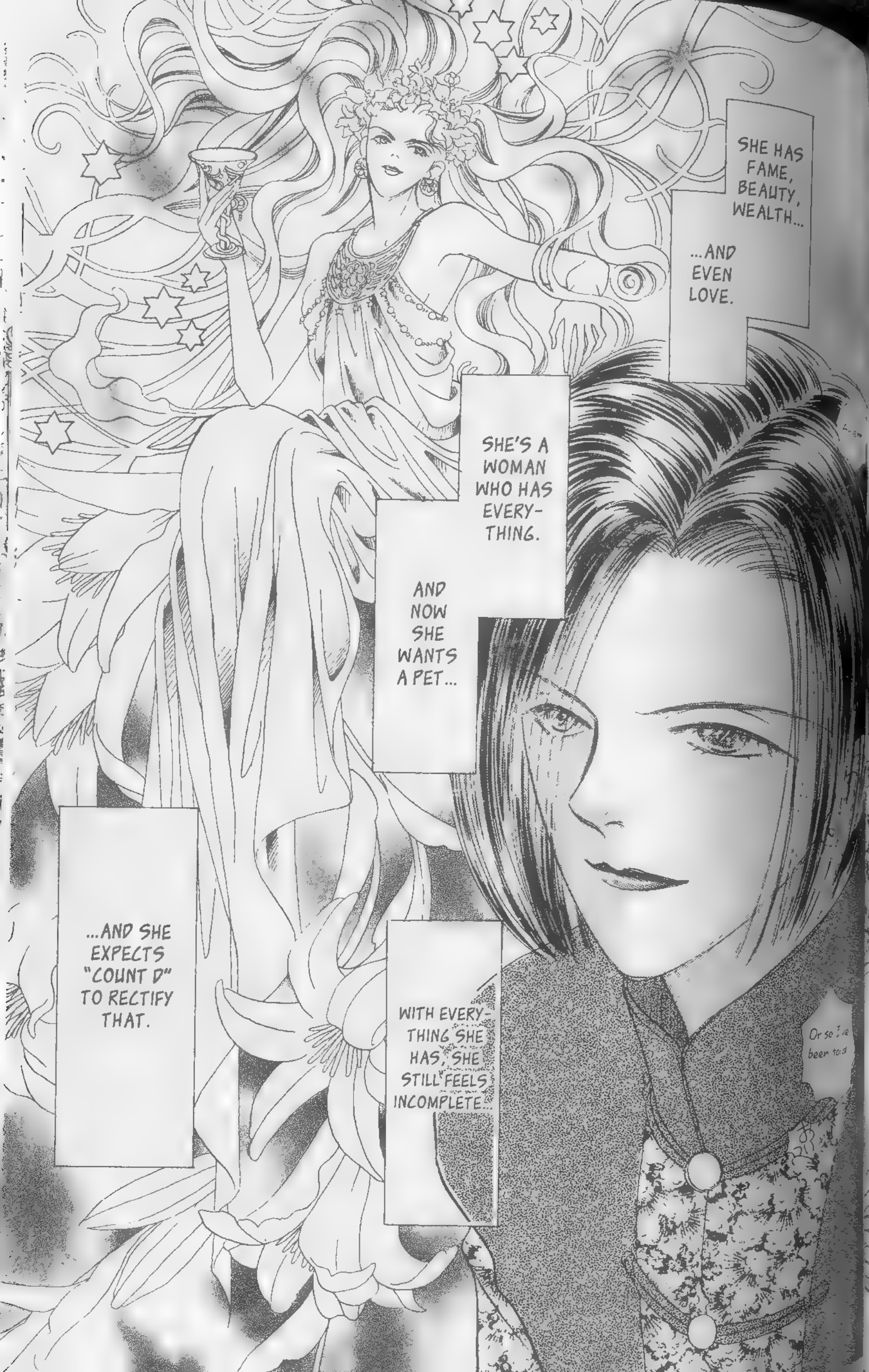

HE'S TOO CRANKY.
WE CAN FORGET HER. SHE'S TOO OLD.
HE'S TOO ...UH, PRISSY.
YOU DON'T LIKE ANYONE, T-CHAN!
WAIT A MINUTE...
WHERE ARE ALL THE ANIMALS?! MAN, COUNT D'S SHOP REALLY SUCKS.
grumble
grumble
THESE ARE ALL PEOPLE! WE CAN'T SELL THEM AS PETS!
...
OKAY, LET'S SEE...
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT FOR Q-CHAN! ONE PERFECT PET, COMIN' RIGHT UP!
Way to go, kid! I'll come with ya!
Me too!

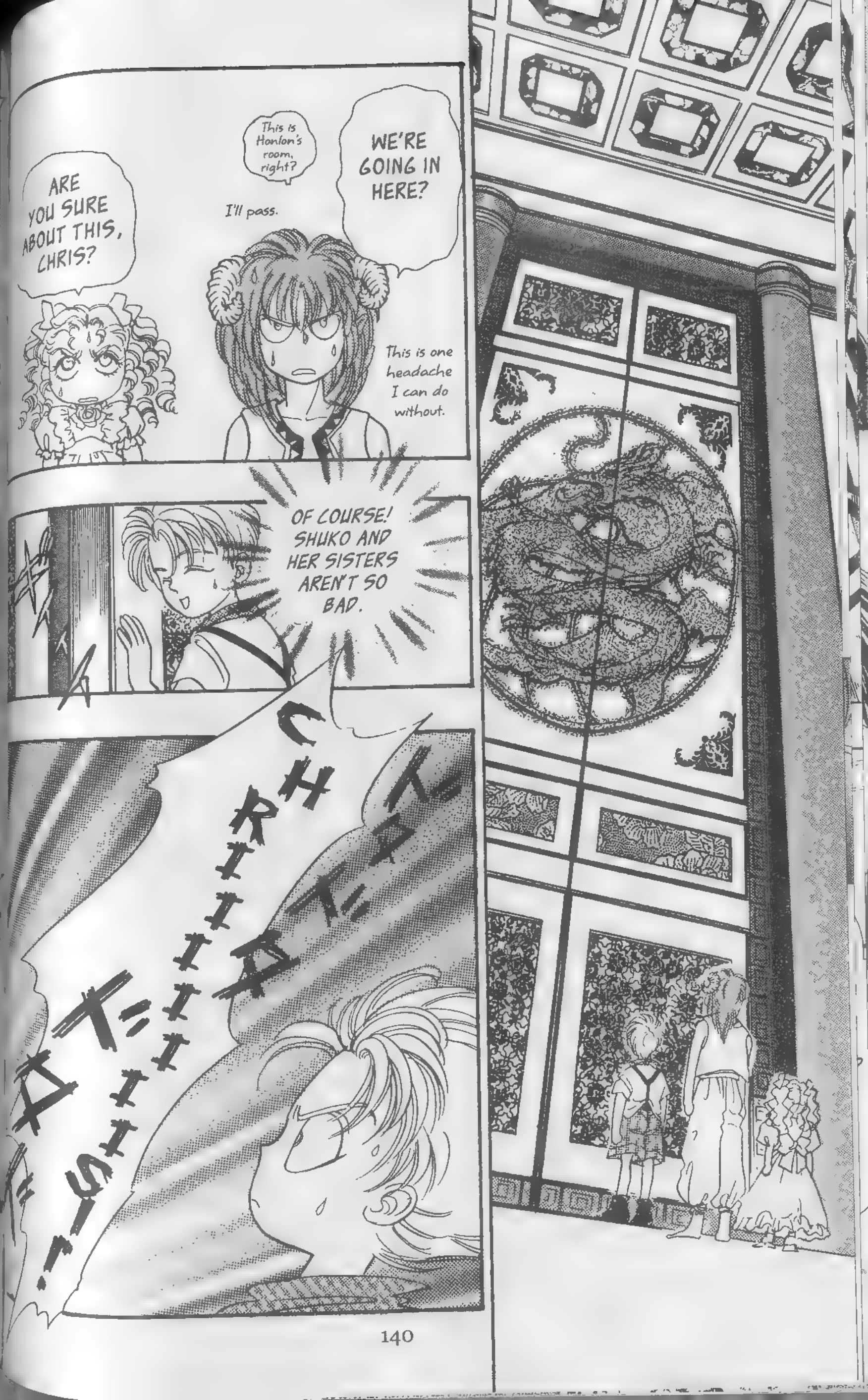

COME TO THINK OF IT, Q-CHAN'S THE ONLY ANIMAL IN THE SHOP. COUNT, WHAT KIND OF PET SHOP IS THIS? THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN ANIMALS!
Remember, readers... All the animals in the pet shop look like people to Chris.
But pets outside the shop look like animals (though there are exceptions).
I...
I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT OF THAT!
...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A HAND IN CHOOSING A PET FOR MS. HURRY?
ME?! BUT COUNT, I...
HUH?!
Kyu?
...
CHRIS, I HAVE AN IDEA...

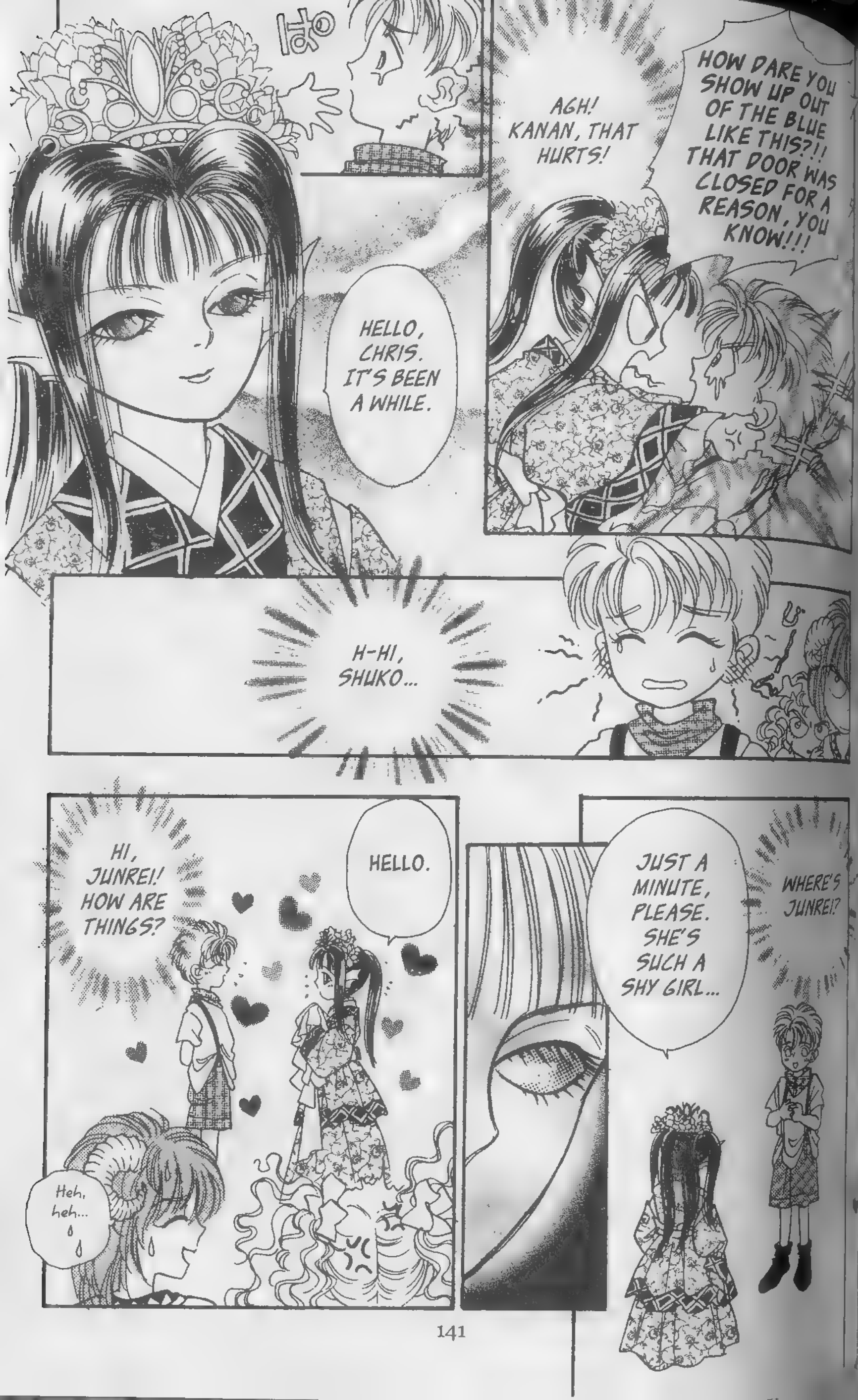

YO, D!!
HI, COUNT!
Laying it on a little thick, aren't we?
JILL! DON'T YOU LOOK LOVELY TODAY?
Daaa!
WHERE'S CHRIS?
DOING A FAVOR FOR ME, ACTUALLY...
HUH?
HE TAKE THAT WEIRD GOAT WITH HIM?
MISS JILL, DO YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN?
EDNA HURRY?
OF COURSE I KNOW HER!!
EDNA'S AN EXTREMELY POPULAR ROMANCE NOVELIST.
OH, PUHLEEZE! YOU MEAN THAT TRASHY HARLEQUIN STUFF THAT YOU ALWAYS FIND AT GARAGE SALES?


HANDSOME MEN, BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, ROMANCE, ADVENTURE, HAPPY ENDINGS, AND LOTS AND LOTS OF SEX!
THERE'S NOT A WOMAN ALIVE WHO DOESN'T LOVE A GOOD ROMANCE!
CERTAINLY.
PLUS EDNA HERSELF IS A REALLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
BUT THAT'S ONLY ONE REASON SHE'S FAMOUS!
HER BOOKS ARE ALL BASED ON HER LIFE IN SOME WAY.
YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE MORE LIKE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES THAN ROMANCE NOVELS!
NOT TO MENTION THAT THE GIRL IS LOADED. SHE'S A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE WITH A HUGE MANSION IN BEVERLY HILLS. SOME PEOPLE EVEN CALL HER THE FEMALE HUGH HEFNER!
HMPH.
BLASPHEMY. THE DRIVEL SHE CHURNS OUT MAY GET THE LADIES ALL HOT AND BOTHERED, BUT SHE CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO HUGH. WHAT THAT MAN HAS PUT DOWN IN PRINT IS NOTHING SHORT OF GENIUS.
Stop being so crude! Your brother's nearby!


PERHAPS YOU SHOULD READ AN EDNA HURRY NOVEL BEFORE YOU PASS JUDGMENT. YOU MIGHT LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT WOMEN.
Grr...
ANYWAY...
NOT REALLY.
SOME-THING UP WITH THIS CHICK?
...
YOU DIDN'T SELL HER ANYTHING WEIRD, DID YOU?
I MIGHT HAVE.
YOU ARROGANT LITTLE TURD!
...


SHE HAS FAME, BEAUTY, WEALTH...
...AND EVEN LOVE.
SHE'S A WOMAN WHO HAS EVERY-THING.
AND NOW SHE WANTS A PET...
WITH EVERY-THING SHE HAS, SHE STILL FEELS INCOMPLETE...
Or so I've been told
...AND SHE EXPECTS "COUNT D" TO RECTIFY THAT.


WE'RE GOING IN HERE?
This is Honlon's room, right?
I'll pass.
This is one headache I can do without.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, CHRIS?
OF COURSE! SHUKO AND HER SISTERS AREN'T SO BAD.
CHRIIIIIIIS!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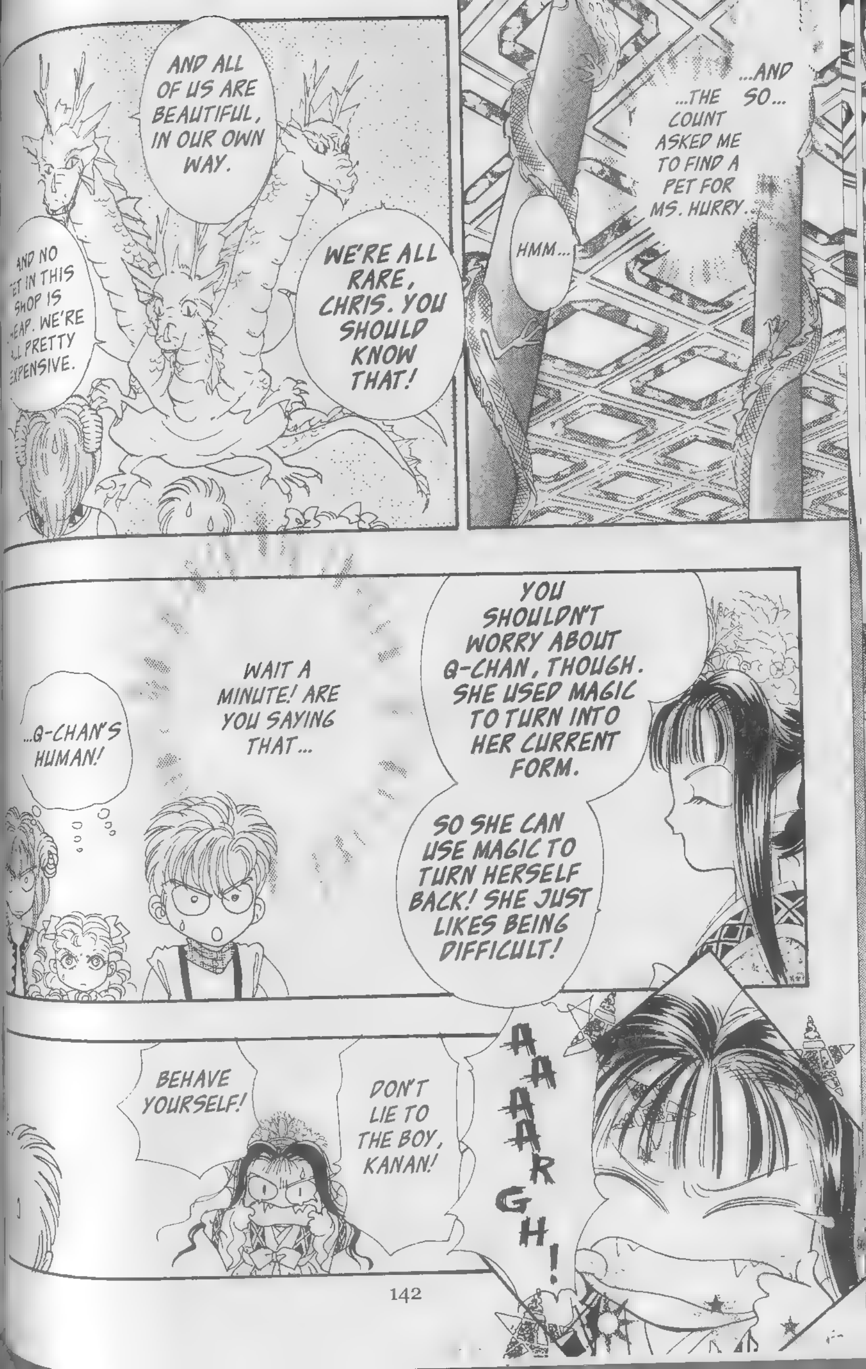
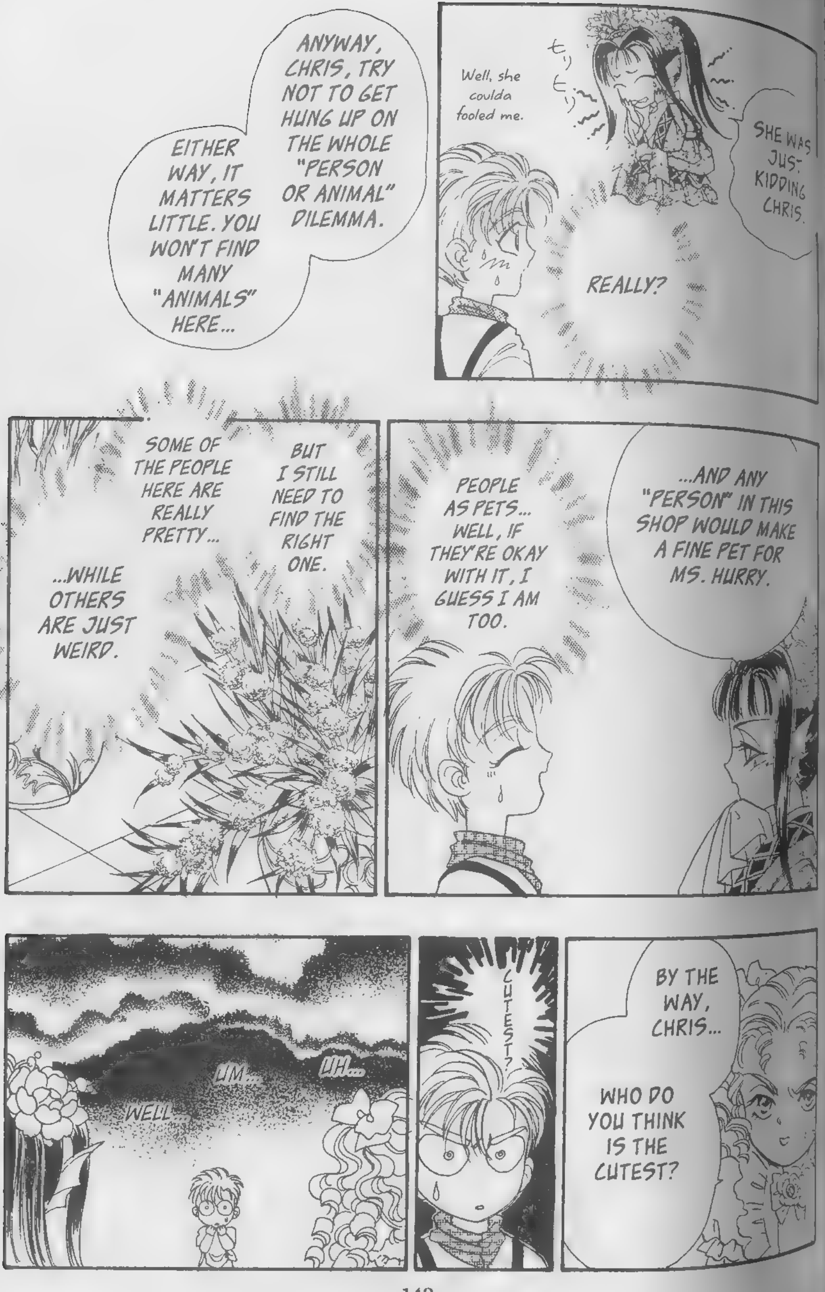
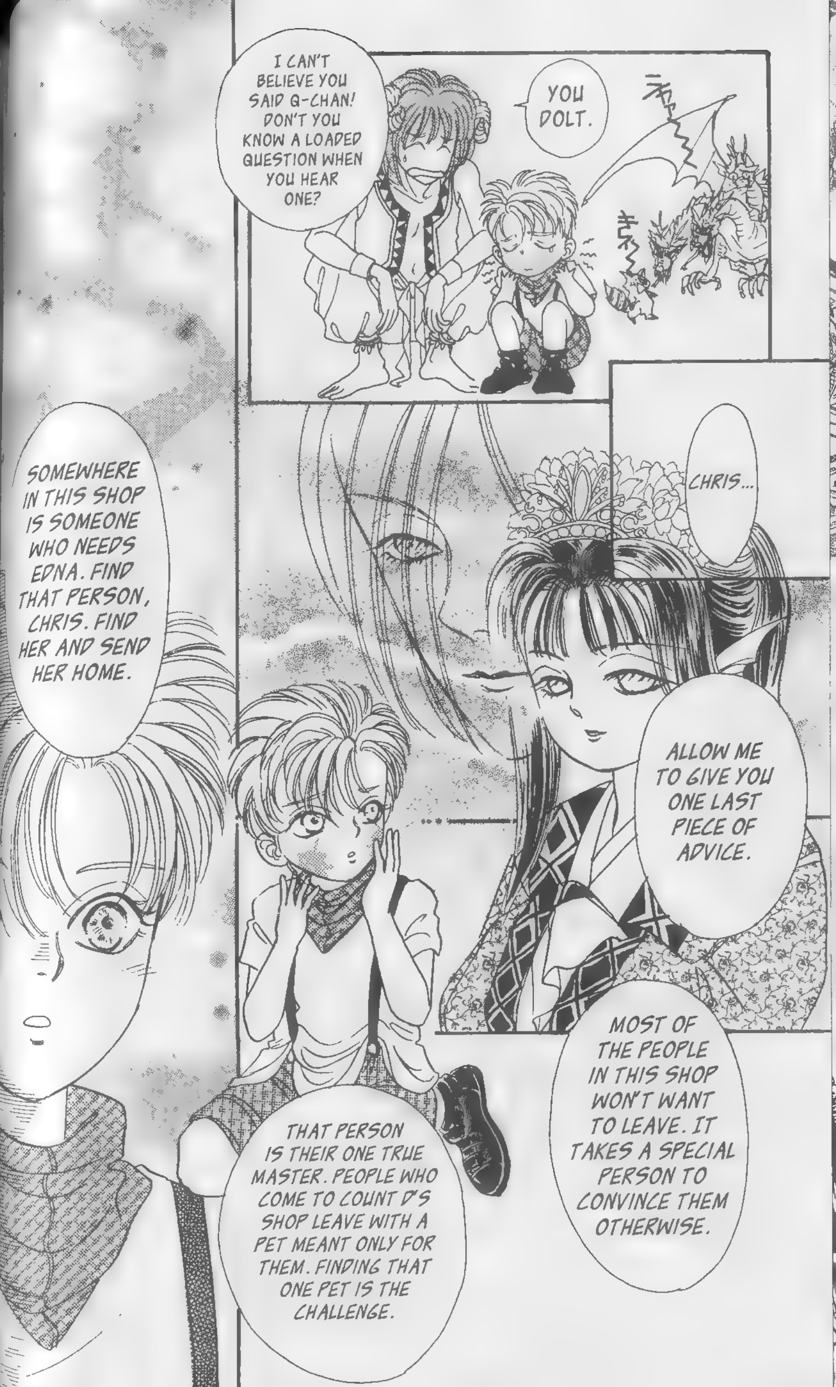
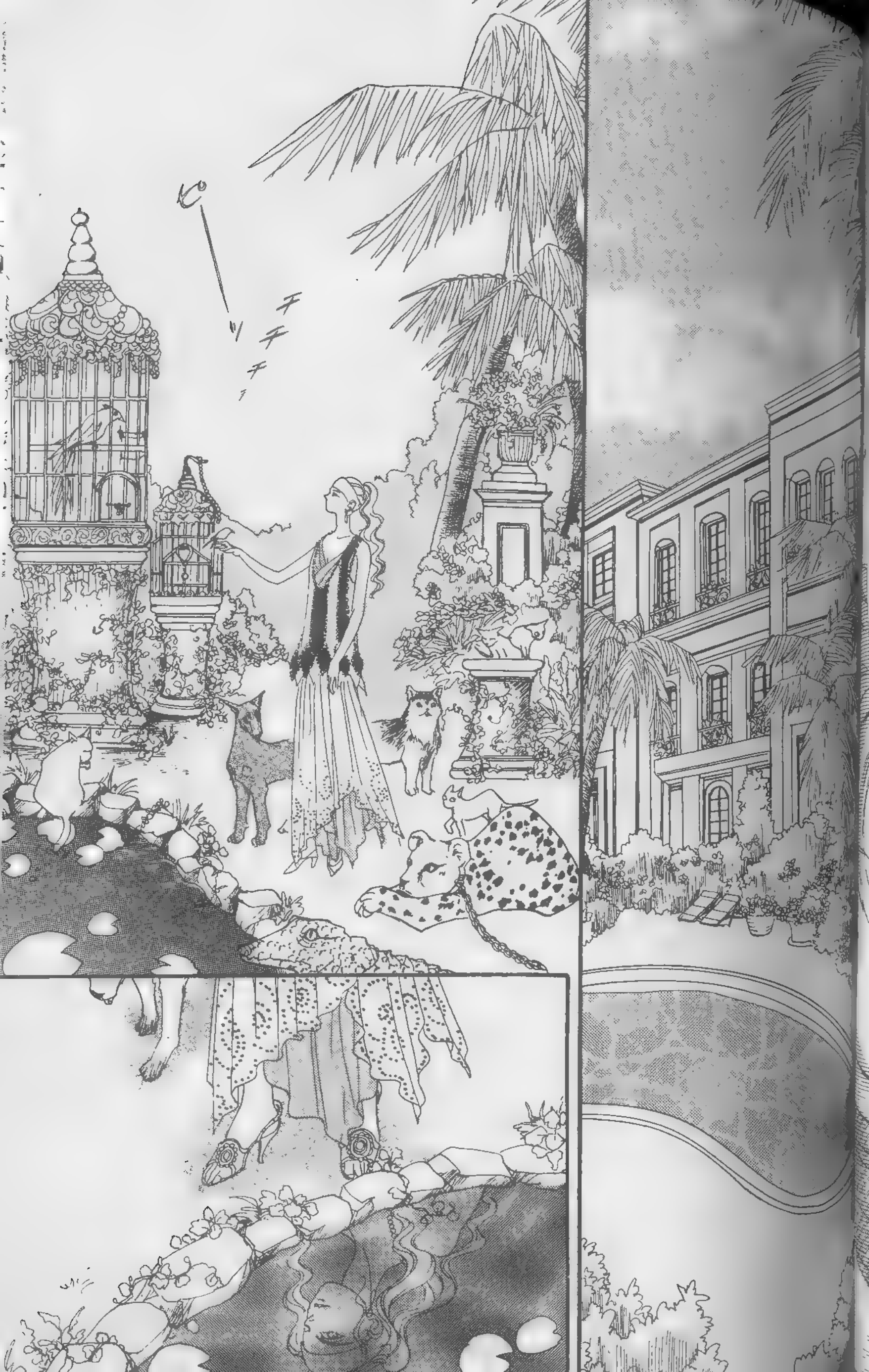
HOW DARE YOU SHOW UP OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS?!! THAT DOOR WAS CLOSED FOR A REASON, YOU KNOW!!!
AGH! KANAN, THAT HURTS!
HELLO, CHRIS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
H-HI, SHUKO...
WHERE'S JUNREI?
JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE. SHE'S SUCH A SHY GIRL...
HELLO.
HI, JUNREI! HOW ARE THINGS?
Heh, heh...


...AND SO...
...THE COUNT ASKED ME TO FIND A PET FOR MS. HURRY...
HMM...
AND ALL OF US ARE BEAUTIFUL, IN OUR OWN WAY.
WE'RE ALL RARE, CHRIS. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!
AND NO ET IN THIS SHOP IS EAP. WE'RE LL PRETTY EXPENSIVE.
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT Q-CHAN, THOUGH. SHE USED MAGIC TO TURN INTO HER CURRENT FORM.
SO SHE CAN USE MAGIC TO TURN HERSELF BACK! SHE JUST LIKES BEING DIFFICULT!
WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU SAYING THAT...
...Q-CHAN'S HUMAN!
AAARGH!
DON'T LIE TO THE BOY, KANAN!
BEHAVE YOURSELF!


SHE WAS JUST KIDDING CHRIS.
ヒリヒリ
Well, she coulda fooled me.
REALLY?
ANYWAY, CHRIS, TRY NOT TO GET HUNG UP ON THE WHOLE "PERSON OR ANIMAL" DILEMMA.
EITHER WAY, IT MATTERS LITTLE. YOU WON'T FIND MANY "ANIMALS" HERE...
...AND ANY "PERSON" IN THIS SHOP WOULD MAKE A FINE PET FOR MS. HURRY.
PEOPLE AS PETS... WELL, IF THEY'RE OKAY WITH IT, I GUESS I AM TOO.
BUT I STILL NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE.
SOME OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE REALLY PRETTY...
...WHILE OTHERS ARE JUST WEIRD.
BY THE WAY, CHRIS...
WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE CUTEST?
CUTEST?!
UH...
UM...
WELL...


YOU DOLT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID Q-CHAN! DON'T YOU KNOW A LOADED QUESTION WHEN YOU HEAR ONE?
CHRIS...
ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU ONE LAST PIECE OF ADVICE.
MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS SHOP WON'T WANT TO LEAVE. IT TAKES A SPECIAL PERSON TO CONVINCE THEM OTHERWISE.
THAT PERSON IS THEIR ONE TRUE MASTER. PEOPLE WHO COME TO COUNT D'S SHOP LEAVE WITH A PET MEANT ONLY FOR THEM. FINDING THAT ONE PET IS THE CHALLENGE.
SOMEWHERE IN THIS SHOP IS SOMEONE WHO NEEDS EDNA. FIND THAT PERSON, CHRIS. FIND HER AND SEND HER HOME.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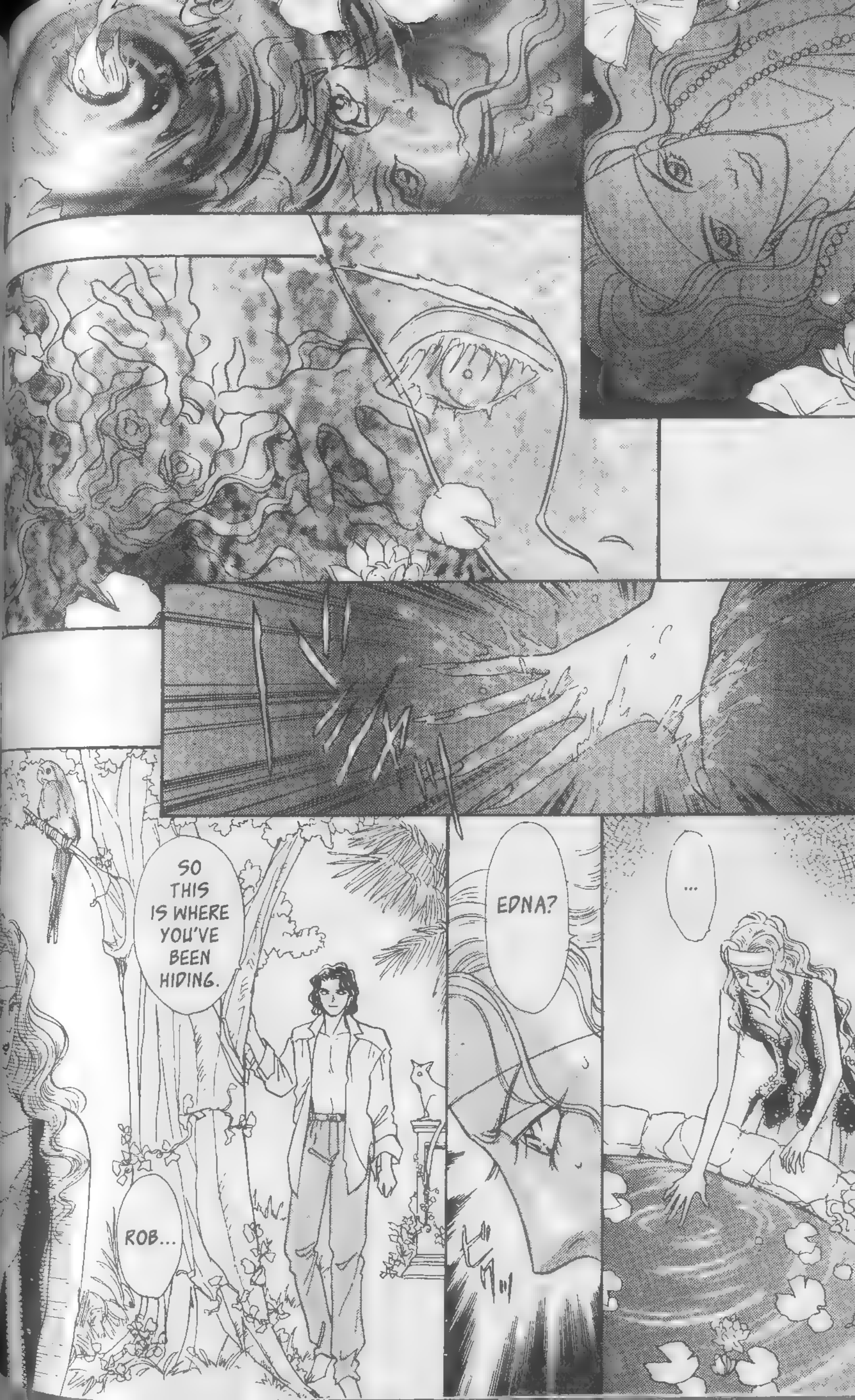
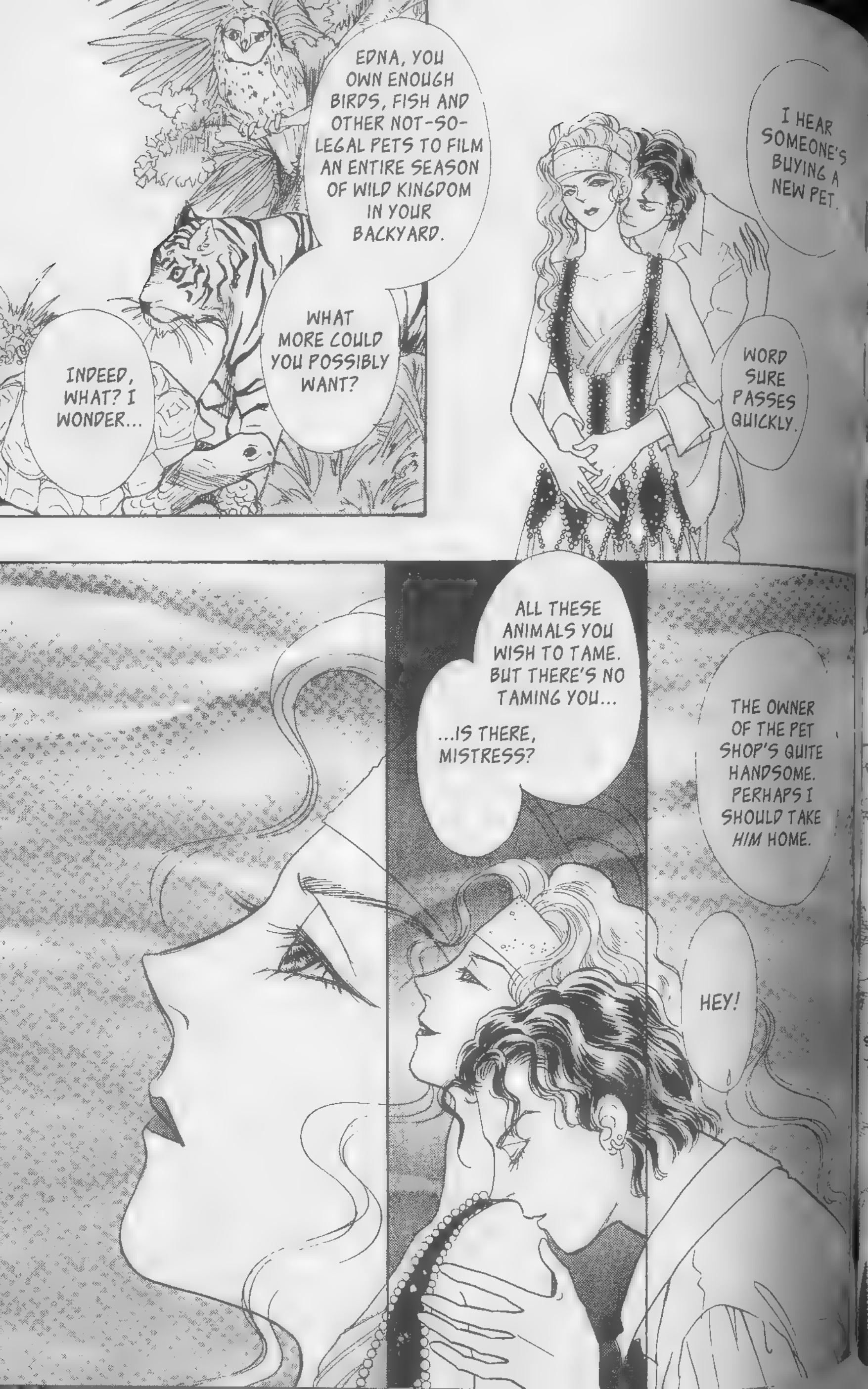
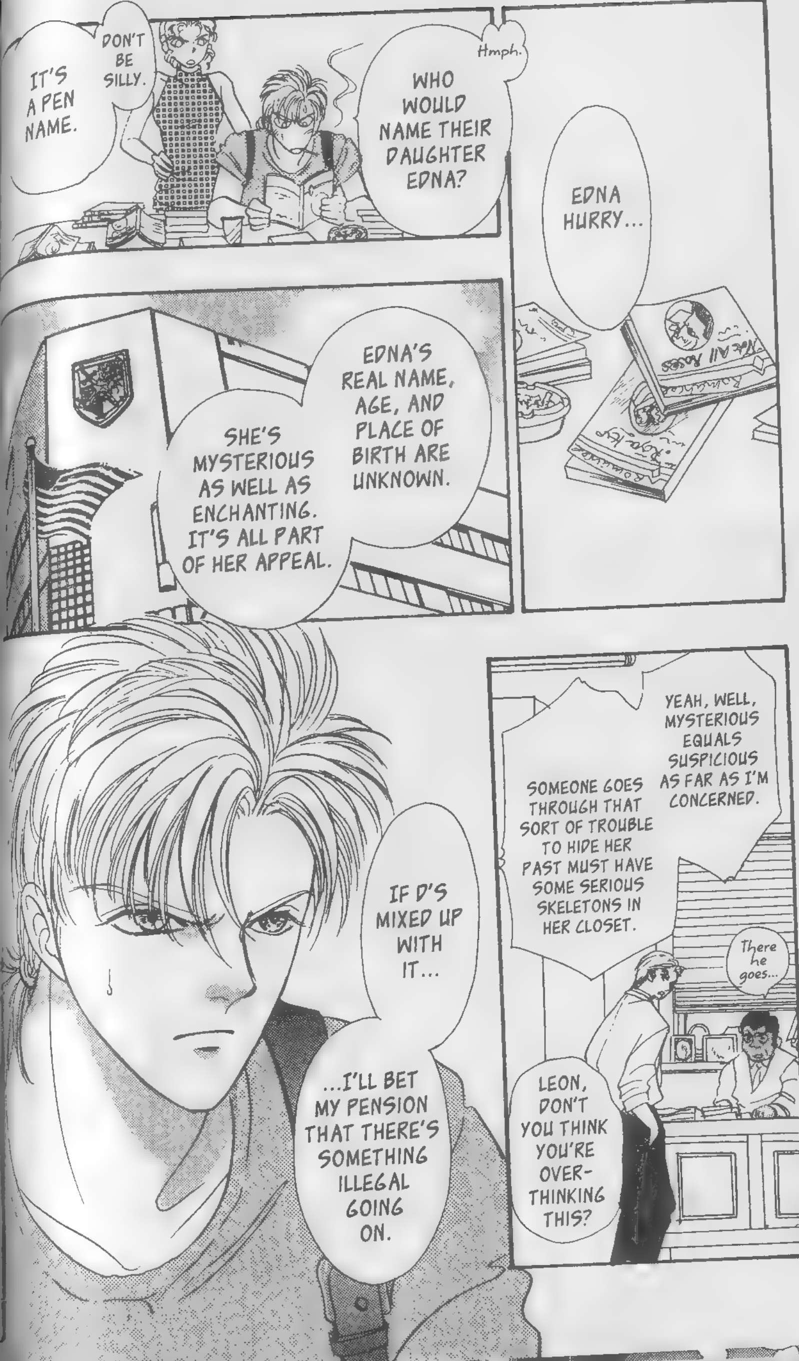
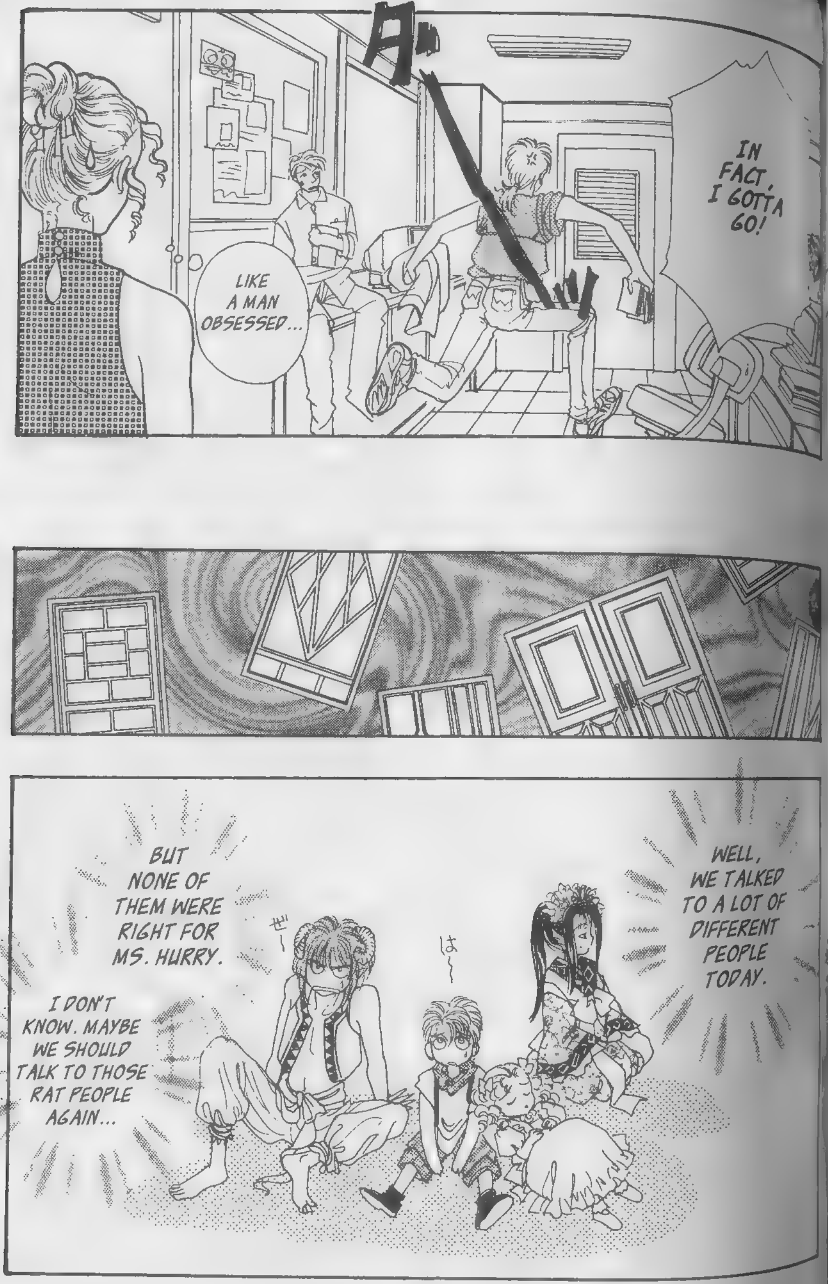
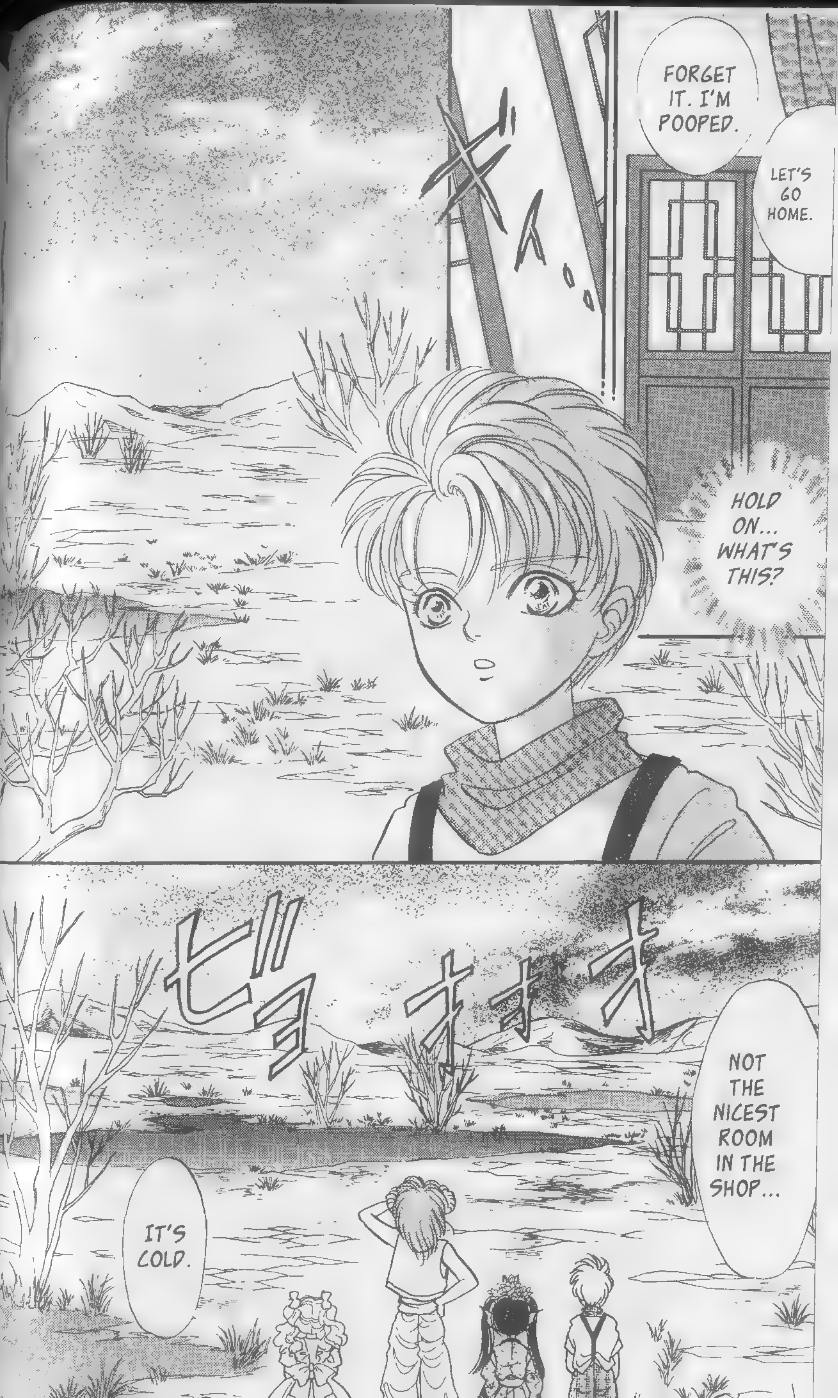
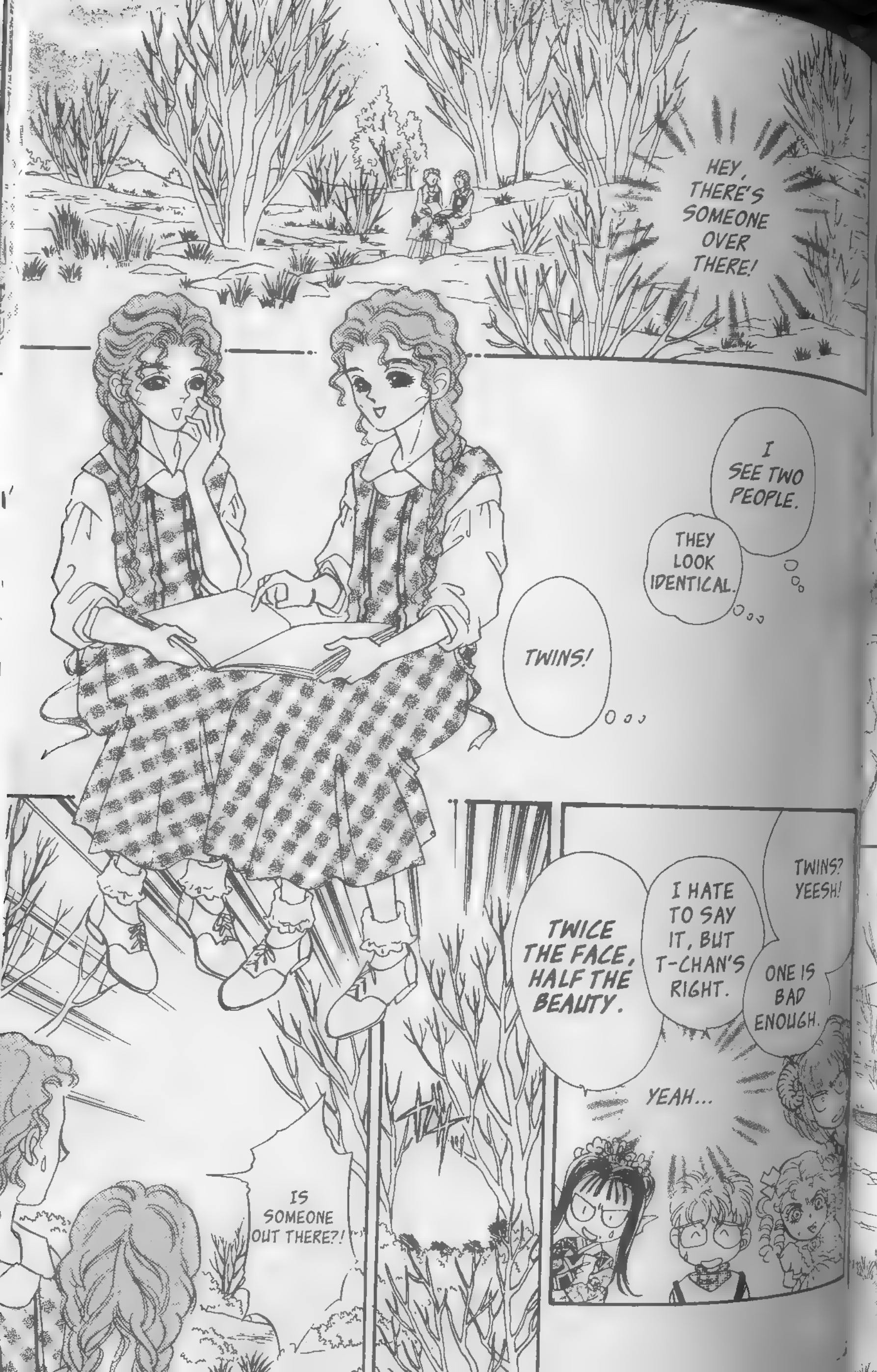

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING.
ROB...
EDNA?
...

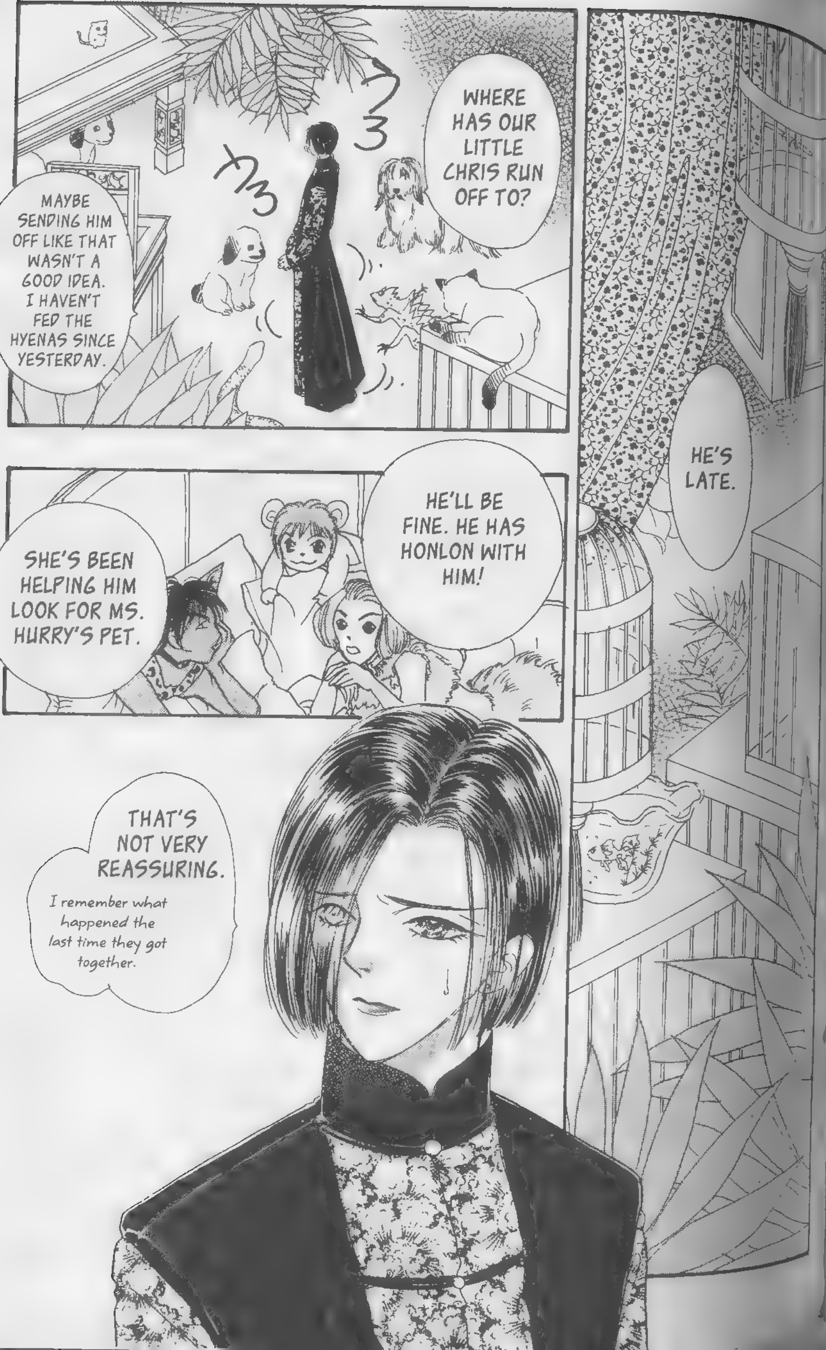

I HEAR SOMEONE'S BUYING A NEW PET.
WORD SURE PASSES QUICKLY.
EDNA, YOU OWN ENOUGH BIRDS, FISH AND OTHER NOT-SO-LEGAL PETS TO FILM AN ENTIRE SEASON OF WILD KINGDOM IN YOUR BACKYARD.
WHAT MORE COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT?
INDEED, WHAT? I WONDER...
ALL THESE ANIMALS YOU WISH TO TAME. BUT THERE'S NO TAMING YOU...
...IS THERE, MISTRESS?
THE OWNER OF THE PET SHOP'S QUITE HANDSOME. PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE HIM HOME.
HEY!

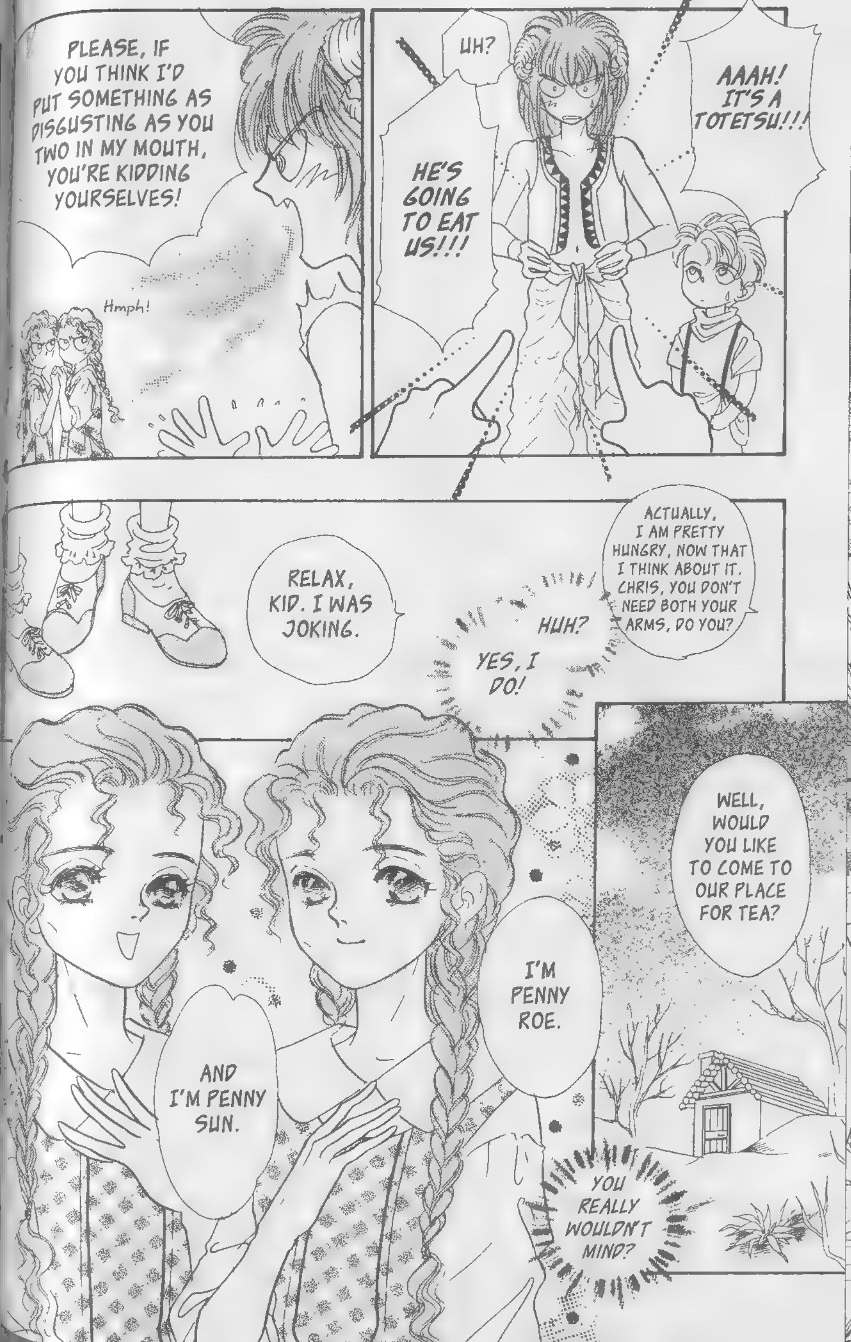

EDNA HURRY...
Hmph.
WHO WOULD NAME THEIR DAUGHTER EDNA?
DON'T BE SILLY.
IT'S A PEN NAME.
EDNA'S REAL NAME, AGE, AND PLACE OF BIRTH ARE UNKNOWN.
SHE'S MYSTERIOUS AS WELL AS ENCHANTING. IT'S ALL PART OF HER APPEAL.
YEAH, WELL, MYSTERIOUS EQUALS SUSPICIOUS AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
SOMEONE GOES THROUGH THAT SORT OF TROUBLE TO HIDE HER PAST MUST HAVE SOME SERIOUS SKELETONS IN HER CLOSET.
There he goes...
LEON, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THIS?
IF D'S MIXED UP WITH IT...
...I'LL BET MY PENSION THAT THERE'S SOMETHING ILLEGAL GOING ON.

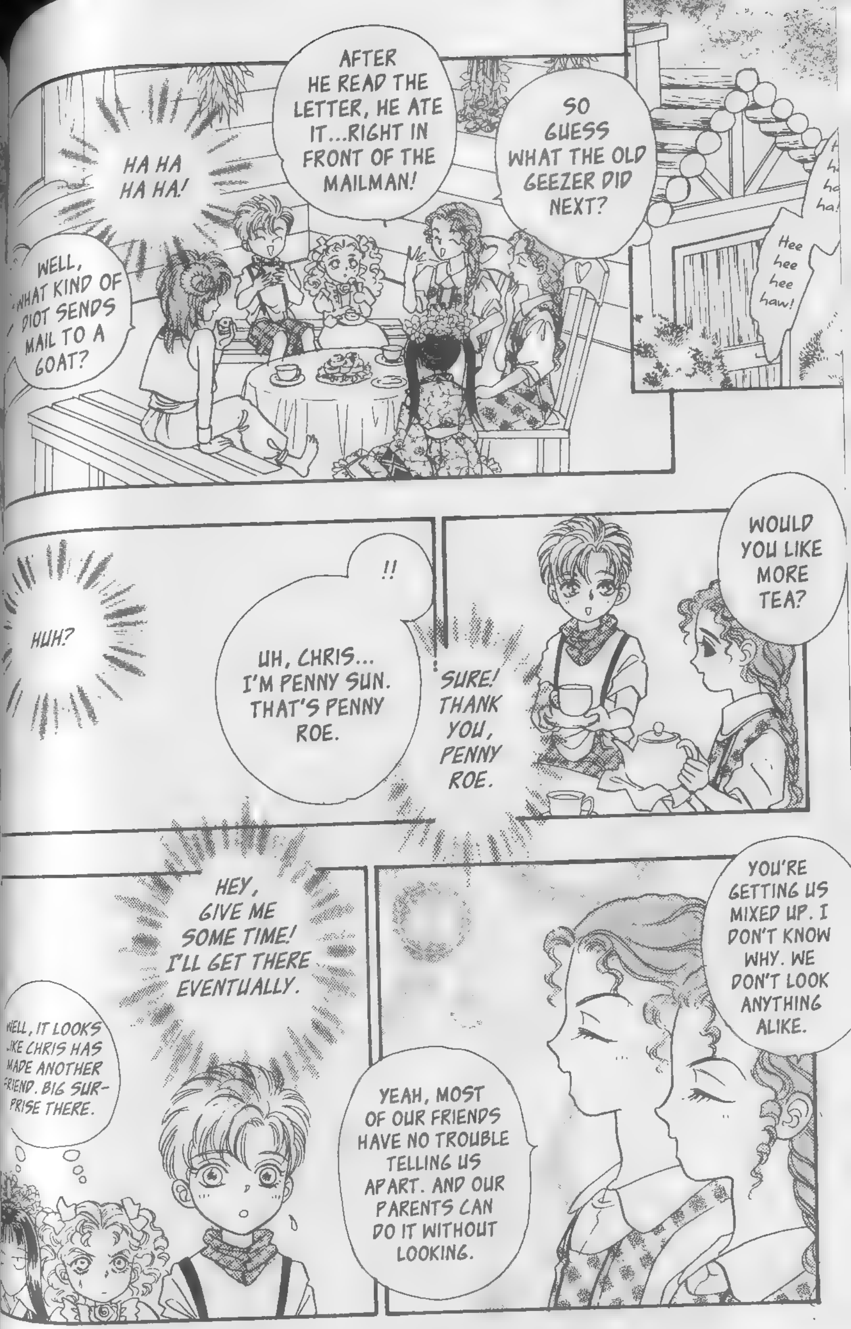

IN FACT, I GOTTA GO!
LIKE A MAN OBSESSED...
WELL, WE TALKED TO A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE TODAY.
は～
ぜ～
BUT NONE OF THEM WERE RIGHT FOR MS. HURRY.
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK TO THOSE RAT PEOPLE AGAIN...

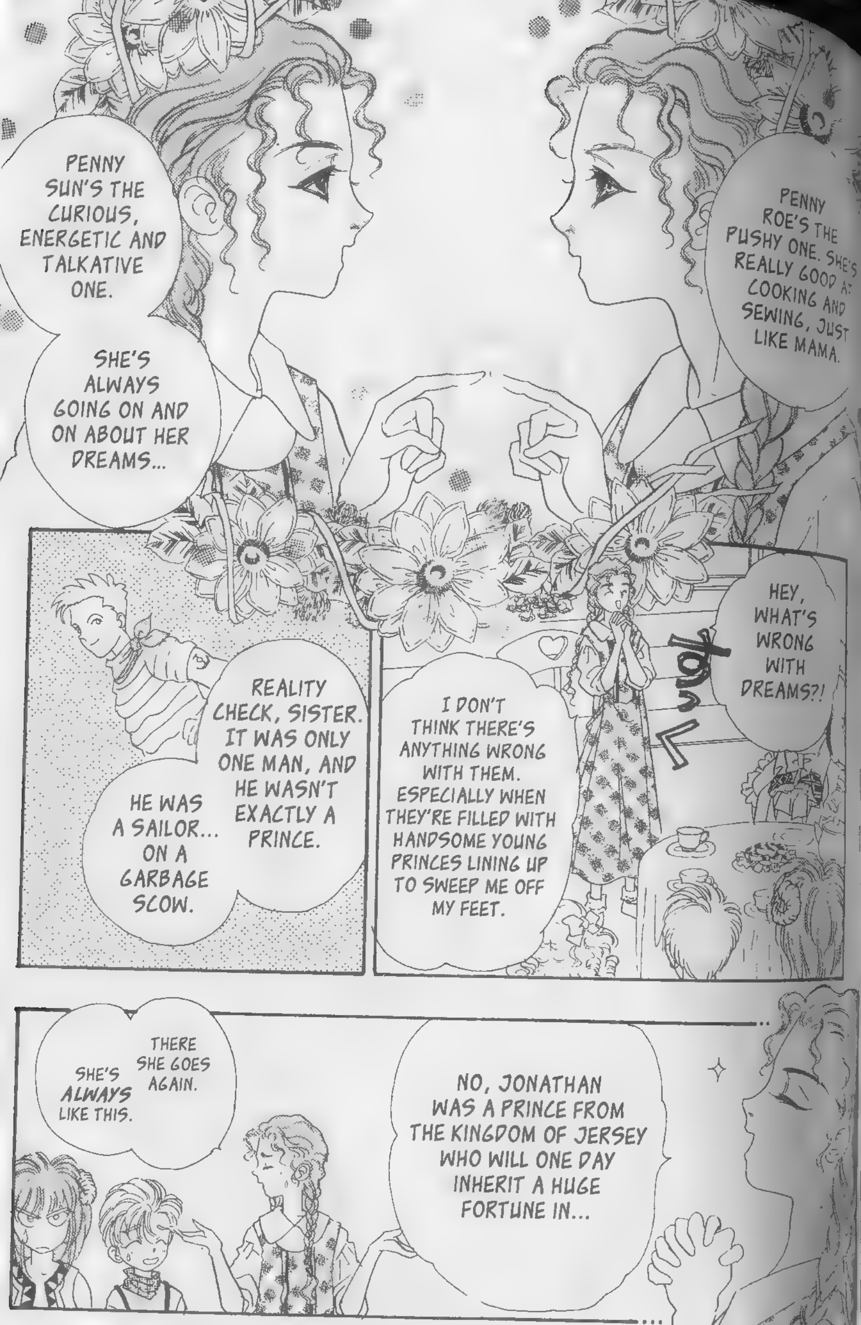

FORGET IT. I'M POOPED.
LET'S GO HOME.
HOLD ON... WHAT'S THIS?
ビョオオオ
NOT THE NICEST ROOM IN THE SHOP...
IT'S COLD.

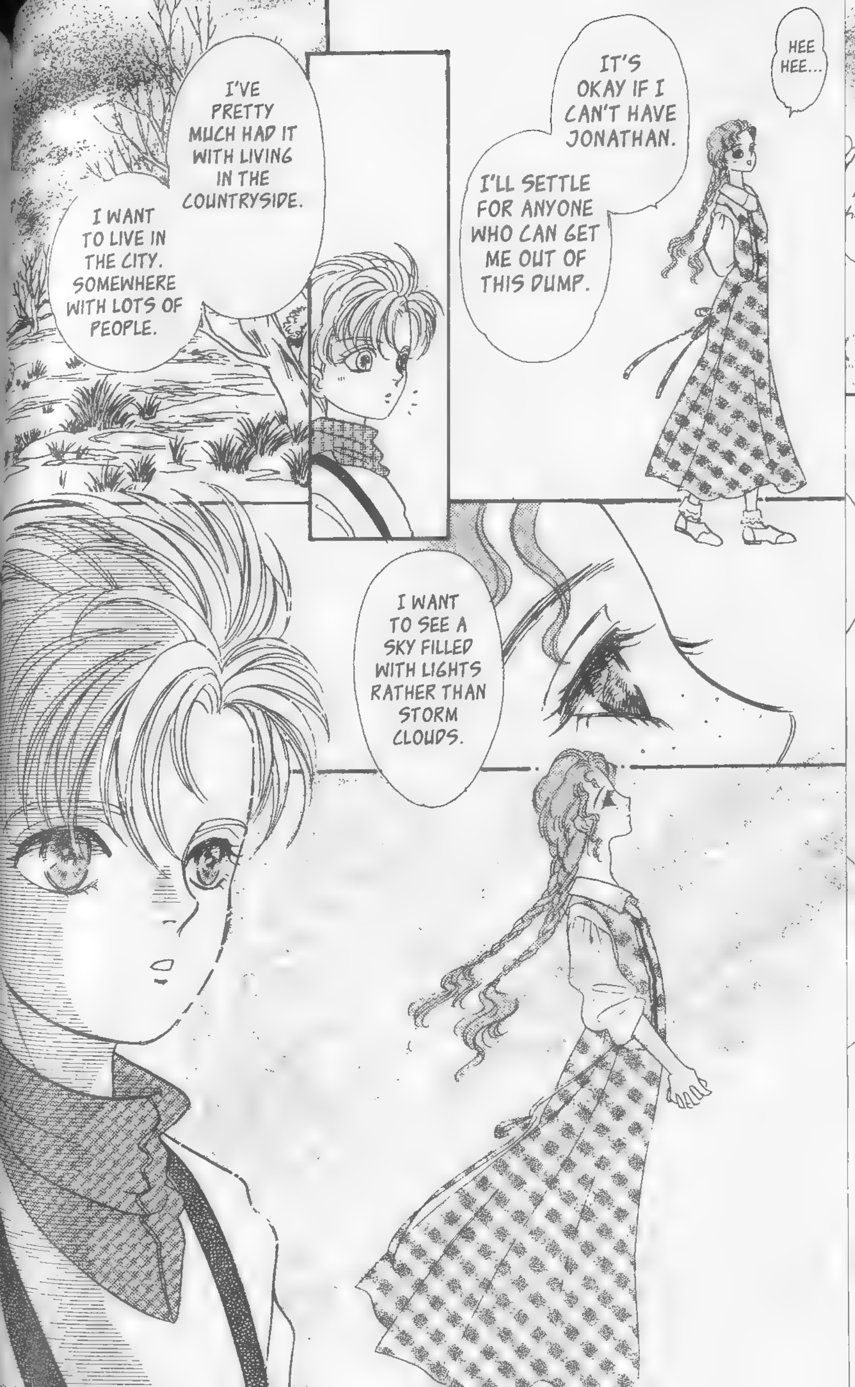

HEY, THERE'S SOMEONE OVER THERE!
I SEE TWO PEOPLE.
THEY LOOK IDENTICAL.
TWINS!
TWINS? YEESH!
ONE IS BAD ENOUGH.
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT T-CHAN'S RIGHT.
TWICE THE FACE, HALF THE BEAUTY.
YEAH...
IS SOMEONE OUT THERE?!

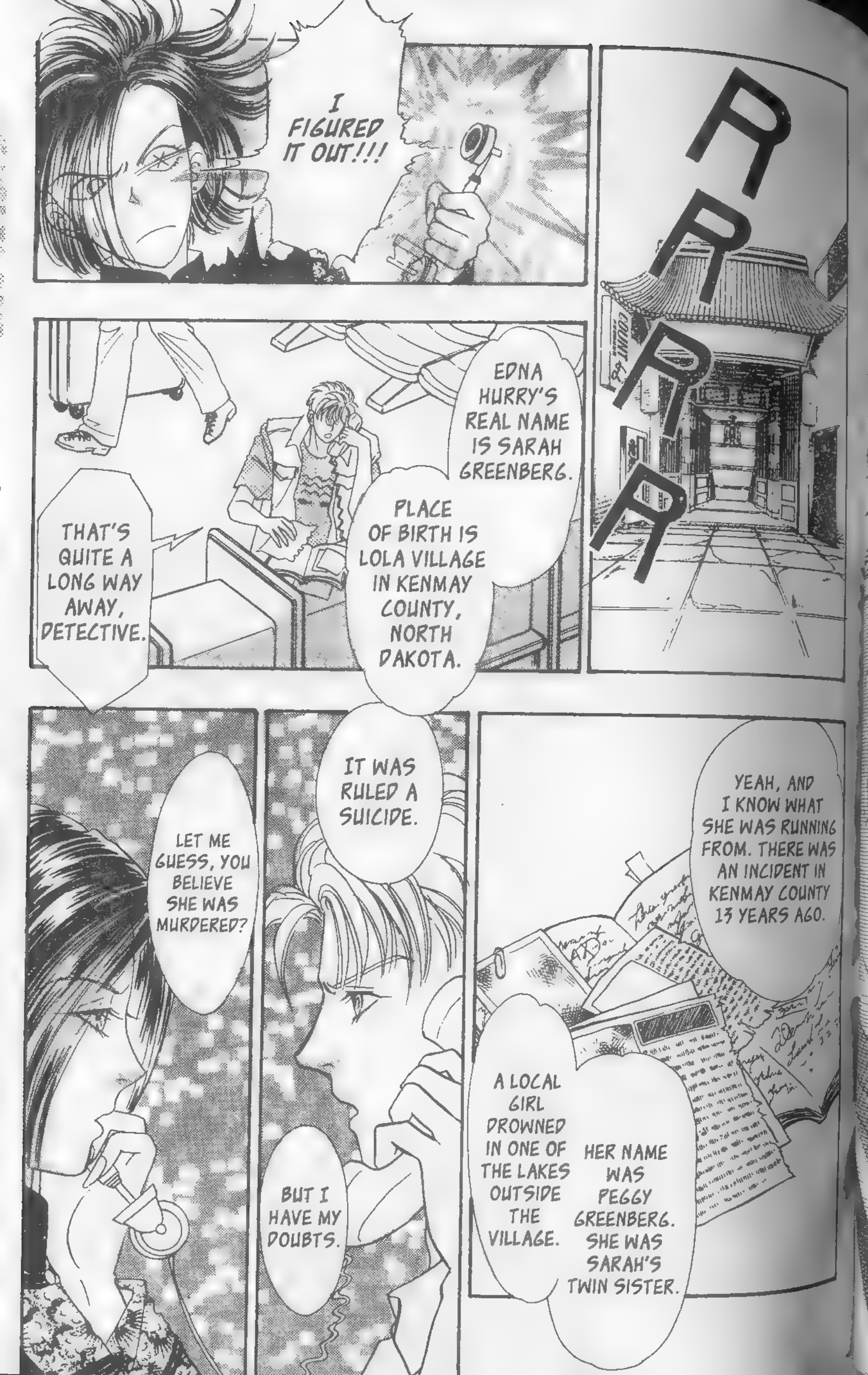

WHERE HAS OUR LITTLE CHRIS RUN OFF TO?
MAYBE SENDING HIM OFF LIKE THAT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA. I HAVEN'T FED THE HYENAS SINCE YESTERDAY.
HE'LL BE FINE. HE HAS HONLON WITH HIM!
SHE'S BEEN HELPING HIM LOOK FOR MS. HURRY'S PET.
HE'S LATE.
THAT'S NOT VERY REASSURING.
I remember what happened the last time they got together.

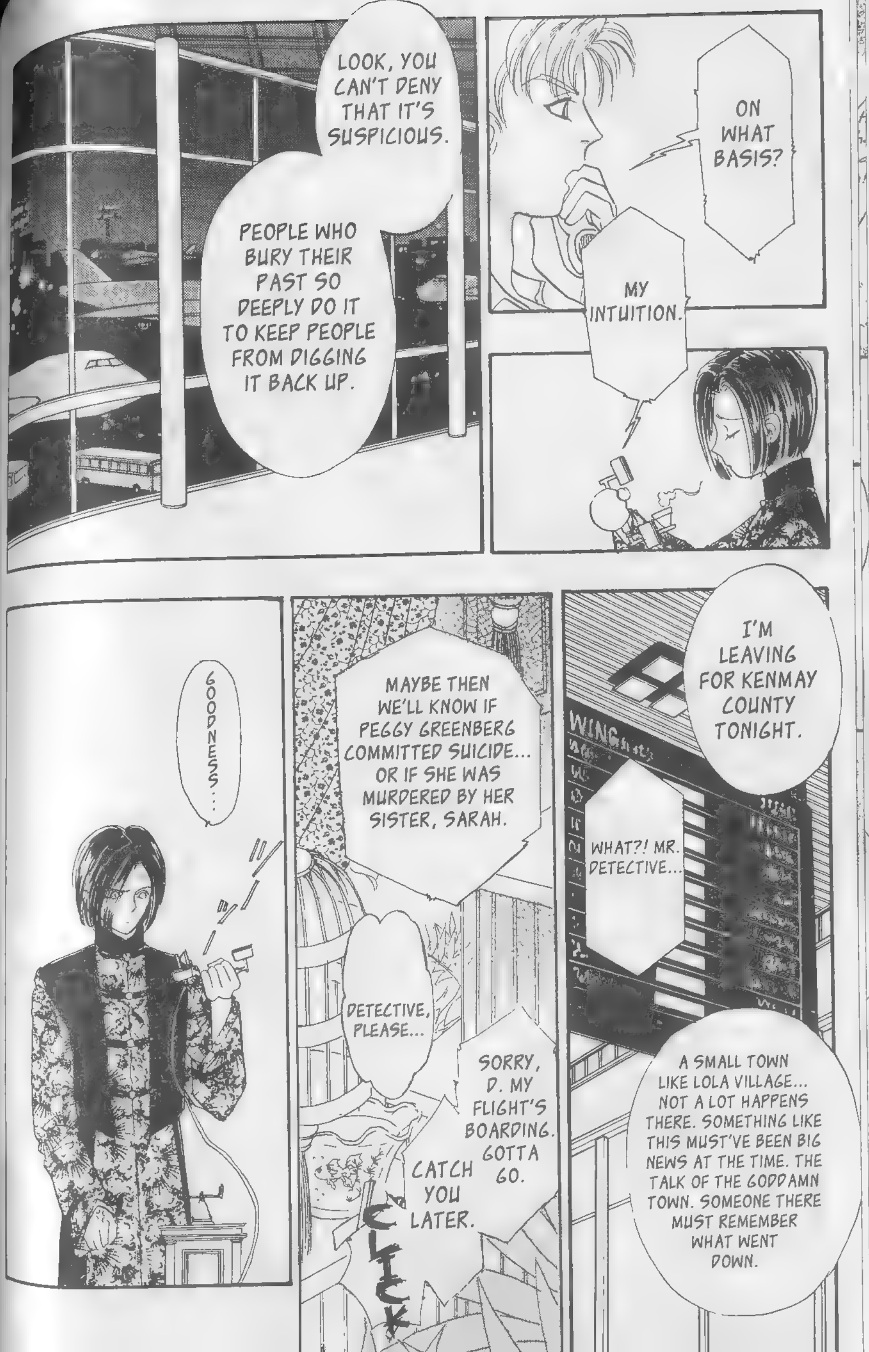

PLEASE, IF YOU THINK I'D PUT SOMETHING AS DISGUSTING AS YOU TWO IN MY MOUTH, YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELVES!
Hmph!
UH?
AAAH! IT'S A TOTETSU!!!
HE'S GOING TO EAT US!!!
RELAX, KID. I WAS JOKING.
ACTUALLY, I AM PRETTY HUNGRY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT. CHRIS, YOU DON'T NEED BOTH YOUR ARMS, DO YOU?
HUH?
YES, I DO!
WELL, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO OUR PLACE FOR TEA?
I'M PENNY ROE.
AND I'M PENNY SUN.
YOU REALLY WOULDN'T MIND?

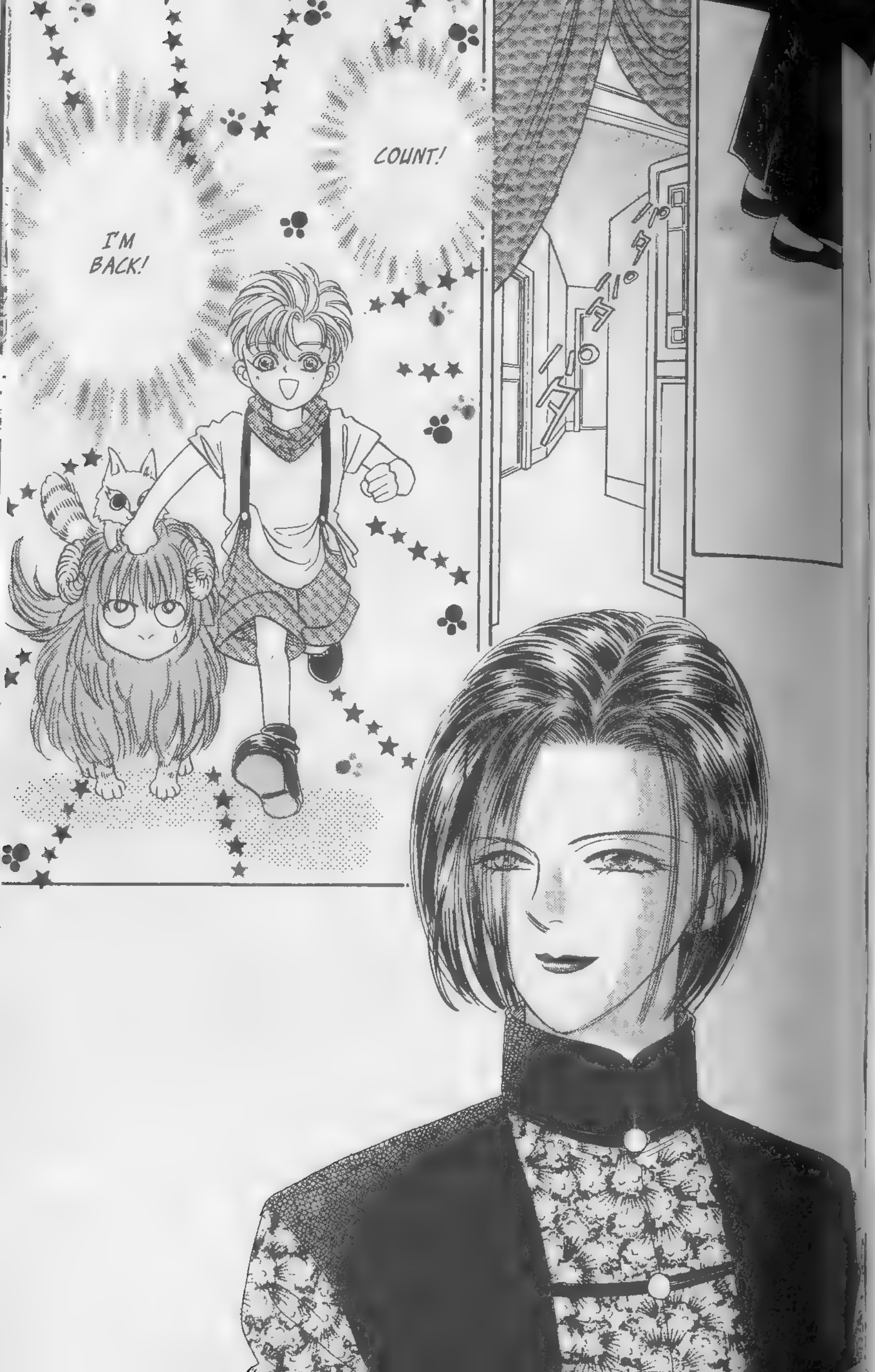

ha ha ha!
Hee hee hee haw!
So guess what the old geezer did next?
After he read the letter, he ate it...right in front of the mailman!
Ha ha ha ha!
Well, what kind of idiot sends mail to a goat?
Would you like more tea?
Sure! Thank you, Penny Roe.
!!
Uh, Chris... I'm Penny Sun. That's Penny Roe.
Huh?
You're getting us mixed up. I don't know why. We don't look anything alike.
Yeah, most of our friends have no trouble telling us apart. And our parents can do it without looking.
Hey, give me some time! I'll get there eventually.
Well, it looks like Chris has made another friend. Big surprise there.

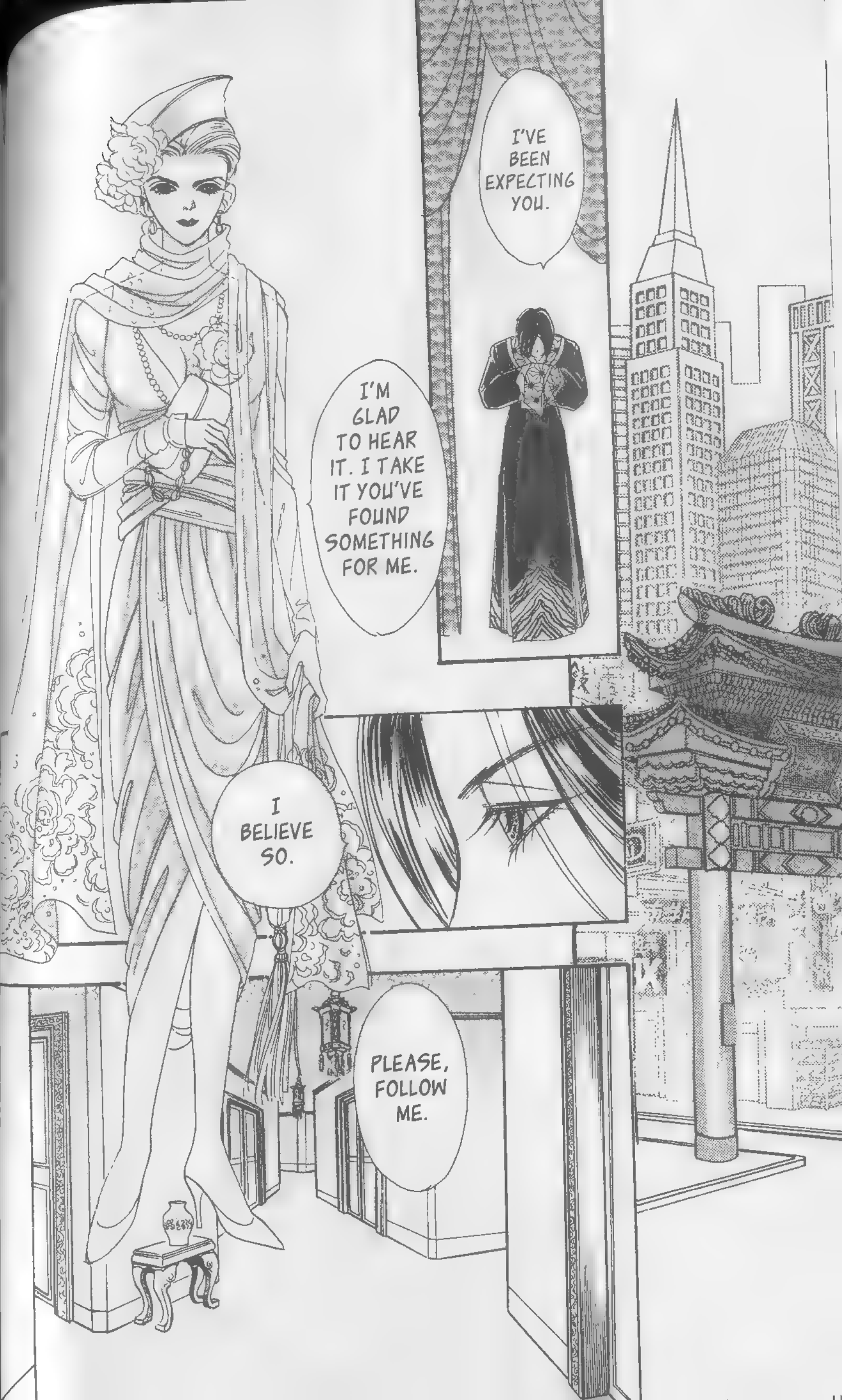

Penny Roe's the pushy one. She's really good at cooking and sewing, just like Mama.
Penny Sun's the curious, energetic and talkative one.
She's always going on and on about her dreams...
Hey, what's wrong with dreams?!
I don't think there's anything wrong with them. Especially when they're filled with handsome young princes lining up to sweep me off my feet.
Reality check, sister. It was only one man, and he wasn't exactly a prince.
He was a sailor... on a garbage scow.
No, Jonathan was a prince from the Kingdom of Jersey who will one day inherit a huge fortune in...
There she goes again.
She's always like this.

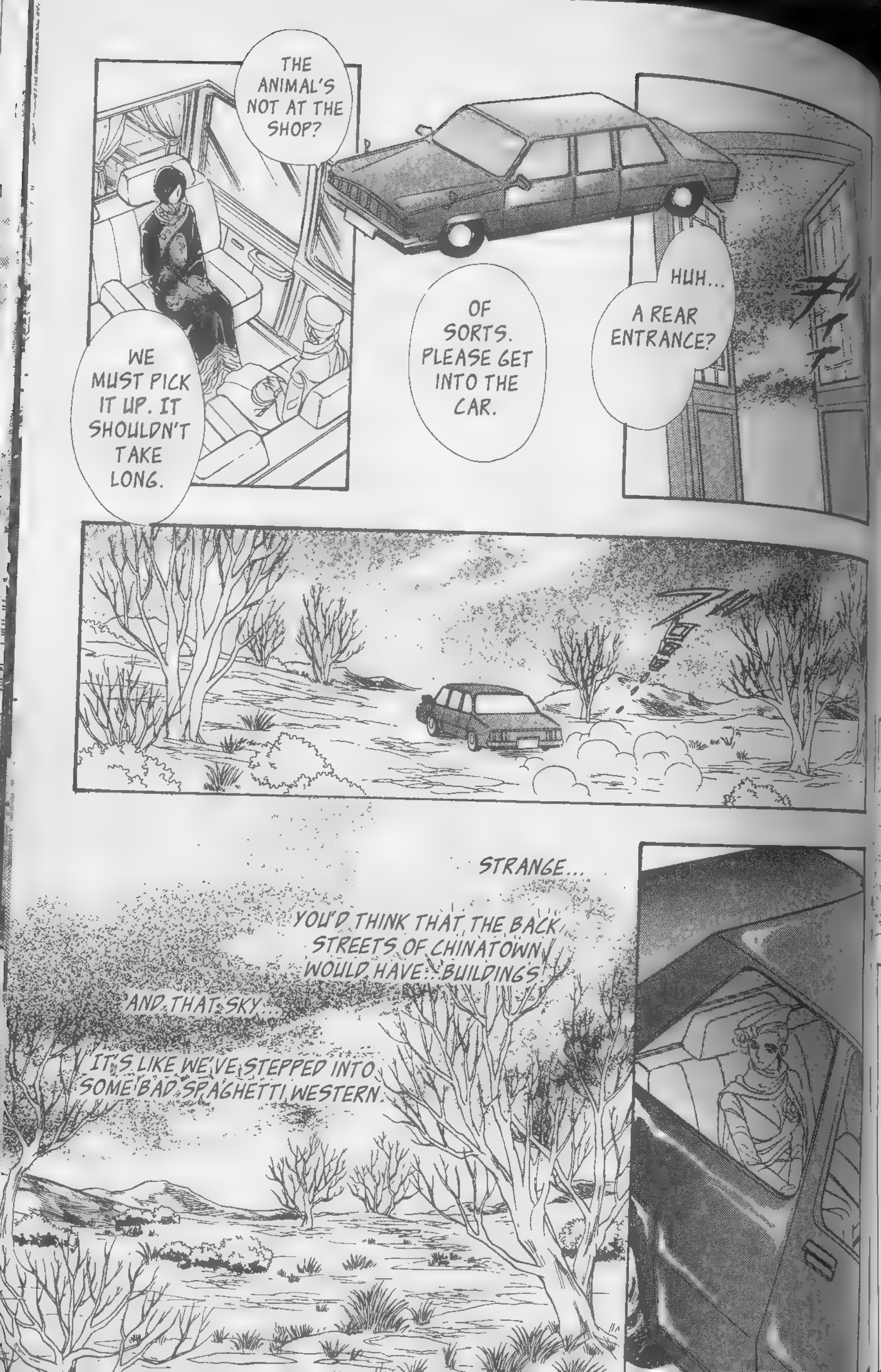

HEE HEE...
IT'S OKAY IF I CAN'T HAVE JONATHAN.
I'LL SETTLE FOR ANYONE WHO CAN GET ME OUT OF THIS DUMP.
I'VE PRETTY MUCH HAD IT WITH LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
I WANT TO LIVE IN THE CITY. SOMEWHERE WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE.
I WANT TO SEE A SKY FILLED WITH LIGHTS RATHER THAN STORM CLOUDS.

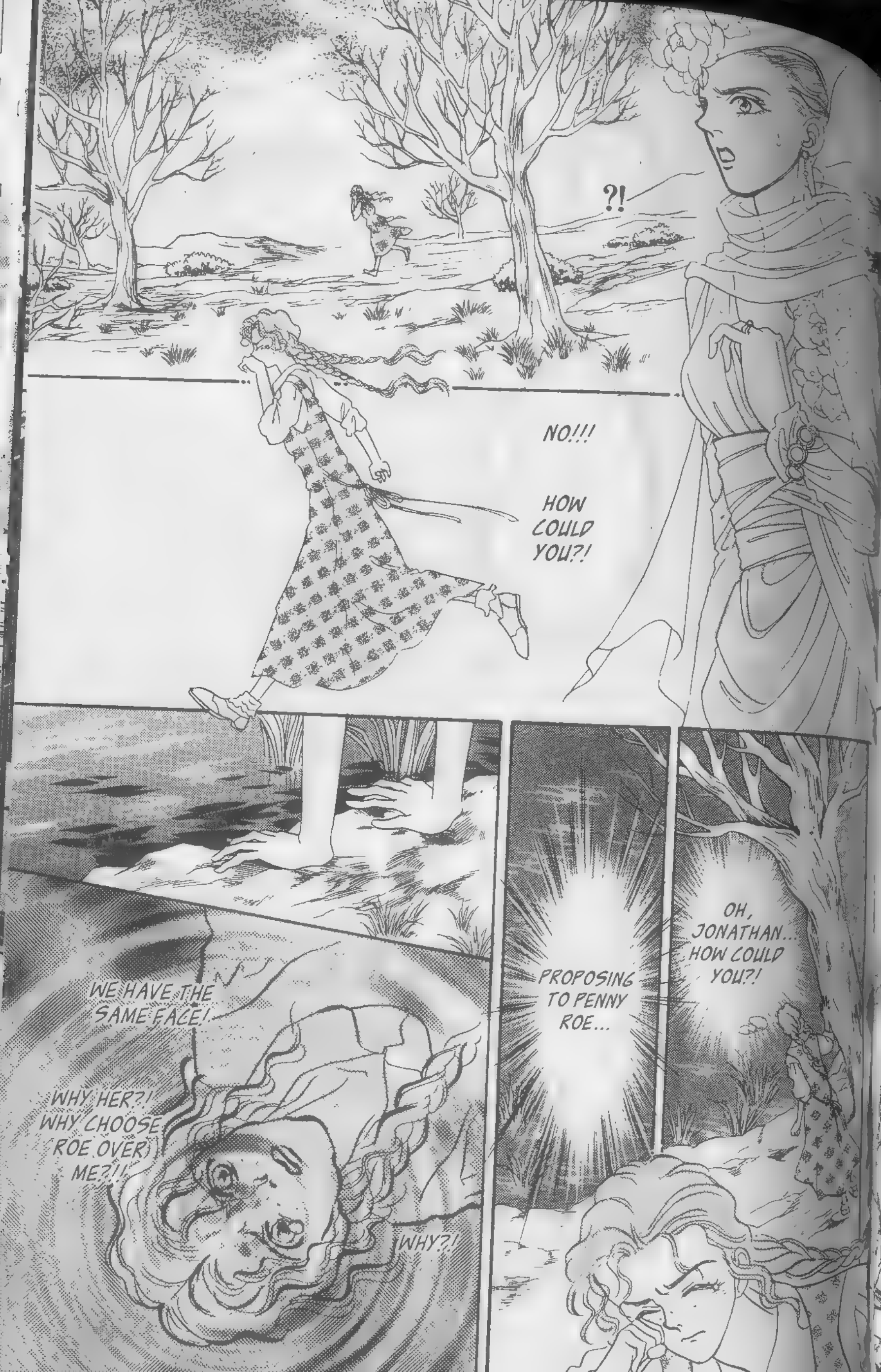

RRRR
I FIGURED IT OUT!!!
EDNA HURRY'S REAL NAME IS SARAH GREENBERG.
PLACE OF BIRTH IS LOLA VILLAGE IN KENMAY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA.
THAT'S QUITE A LONG WAY AWAY, DETECTIVE.
YEAH, AND I KNOW WHAT SHE WAS RUNNING FROM. THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN KENMAY COUNTY 13 YEARS AGO.
A LOCAL GIRL DROWNED IN ONE OF THE LAKES OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.
HER NAME WAS PEGGY GREENBERG. SHE WAS SARAH'S TWIN SISTER.
IT WAS RULED A SUICIDE.
BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS.
LET ME GUESS, YOU BELIEVE SHE WAS MURDERED?

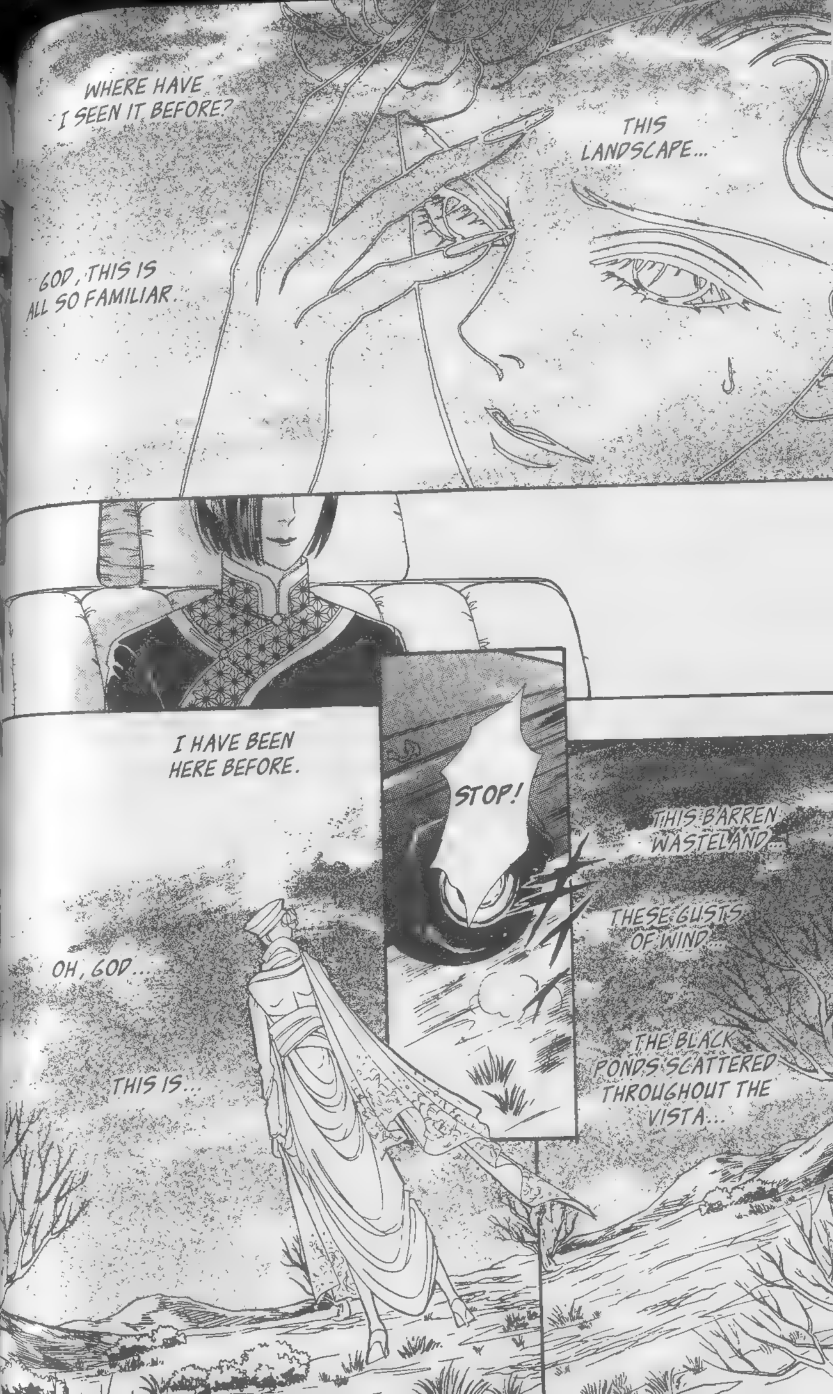

ON WHAT BASIS?
MY INTUITION.
LOOK, YOU CAN'T DENY THAT IT'S SUSPICIOUS.
PEOPLE WHO BURY THEIR PAST SO DEEPLY DO IT TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM DIGGING IT BACK UP.
I'M LEAVING FOR KENMAY COUNTY TONIGHT.
WHAT?! MR. DETECTIVE...
A SMALL TOWN LIKE LOLA VILLAGE... NOT A LOT HAPPENS THERE. SOMETHING LIKE THIS MUST'VE BEEN BIG NEWS AT THE TIME. THE TALK OF THE GODDAMN TOWN. SOMEONE THERE MUST REMEMBER WHAT WENT DOWN.
MAYBE THEN WE'LL KNOW IF PEGGY GREENBERG COMMITTED SUICIDE... OR IF SHE WAS MURDERED BY HER SISTER, SARAH.
DETECTIVE, PLEASE...
SORRY, D. MY FLIGHT'S BOARDING. GOTTA GO.
CATCH YOU LATER.
CLICK
GOODNESS...

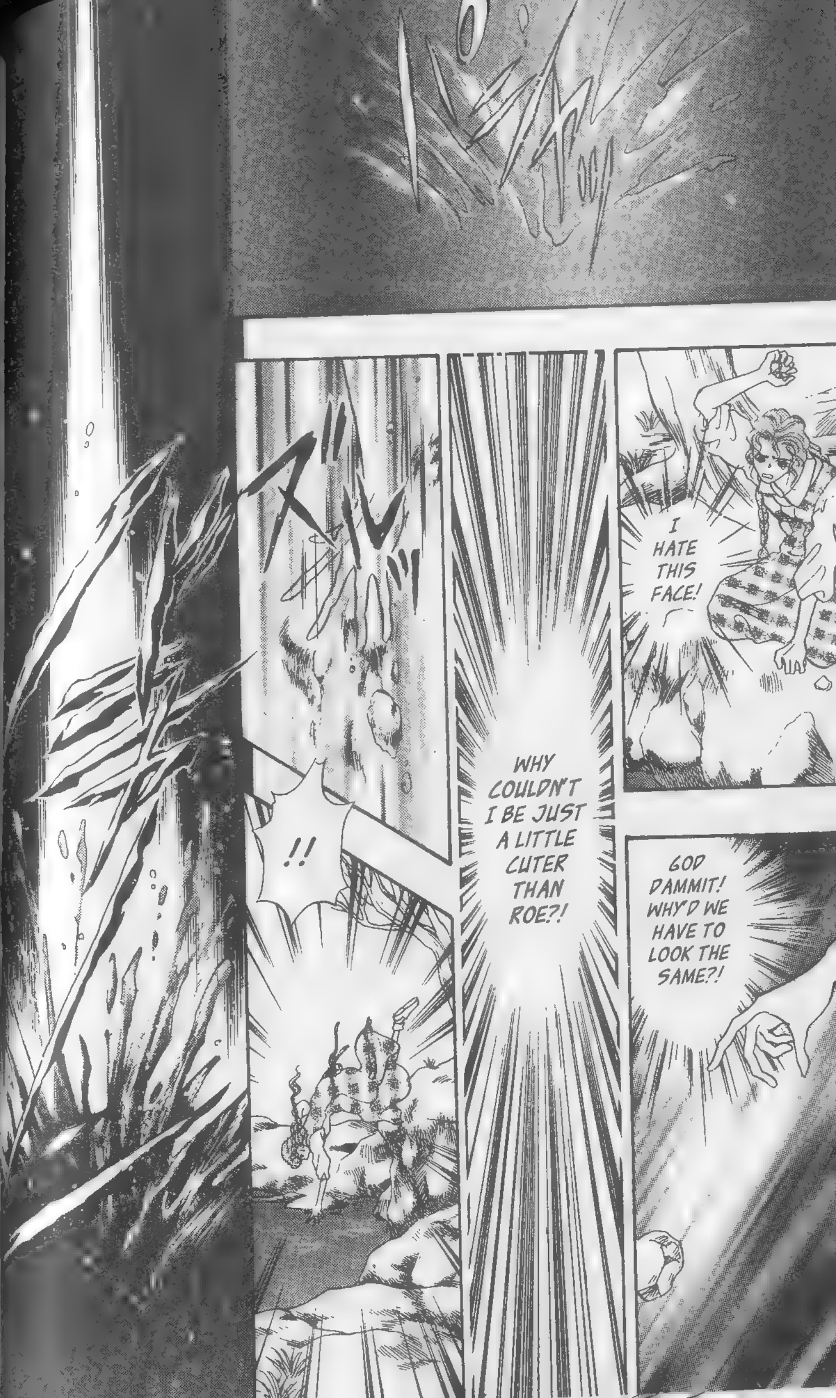

COUNT!
I'M BACK!

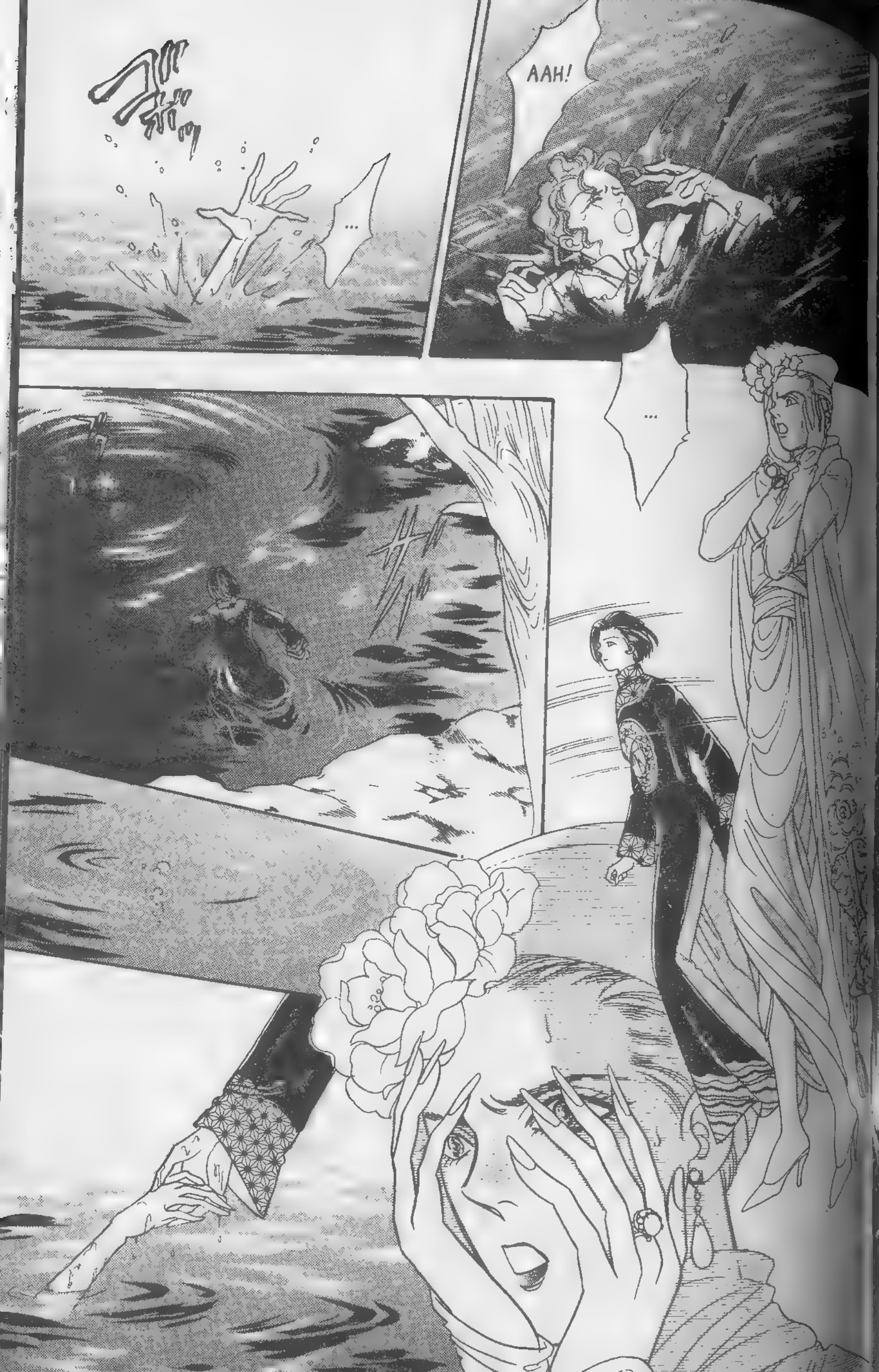

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT. I TAKE IT YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING FOR ME.
I BELIEVE SO.
PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.

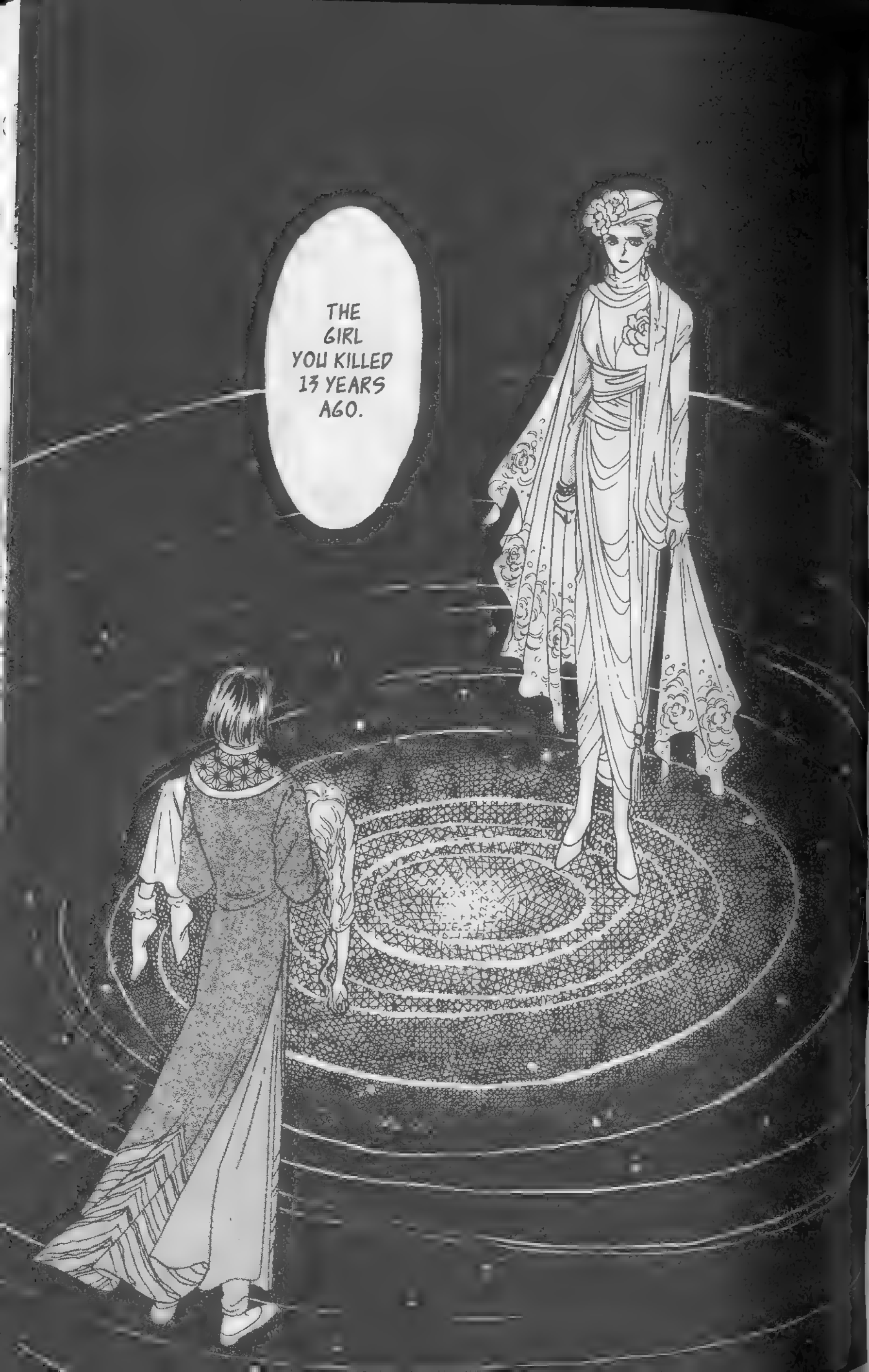

HUH... A REAR ENTRANCE?
OF SORTS. PLEASE GET INTO THE CAR.
THE ANIMAL'S NOT AT THE SHOP?
WE MUST PICK IT UP. IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.
STRANGE...
YOU'D THINK THAT THE BACK STREETS OF CHINATOWN WOULD HAVE... BUILDINGS.
AND THAT SKY...
IT'S LIKE WE'VE STEPPED INTO SOME BAD SPAGHETTI WESTERN.

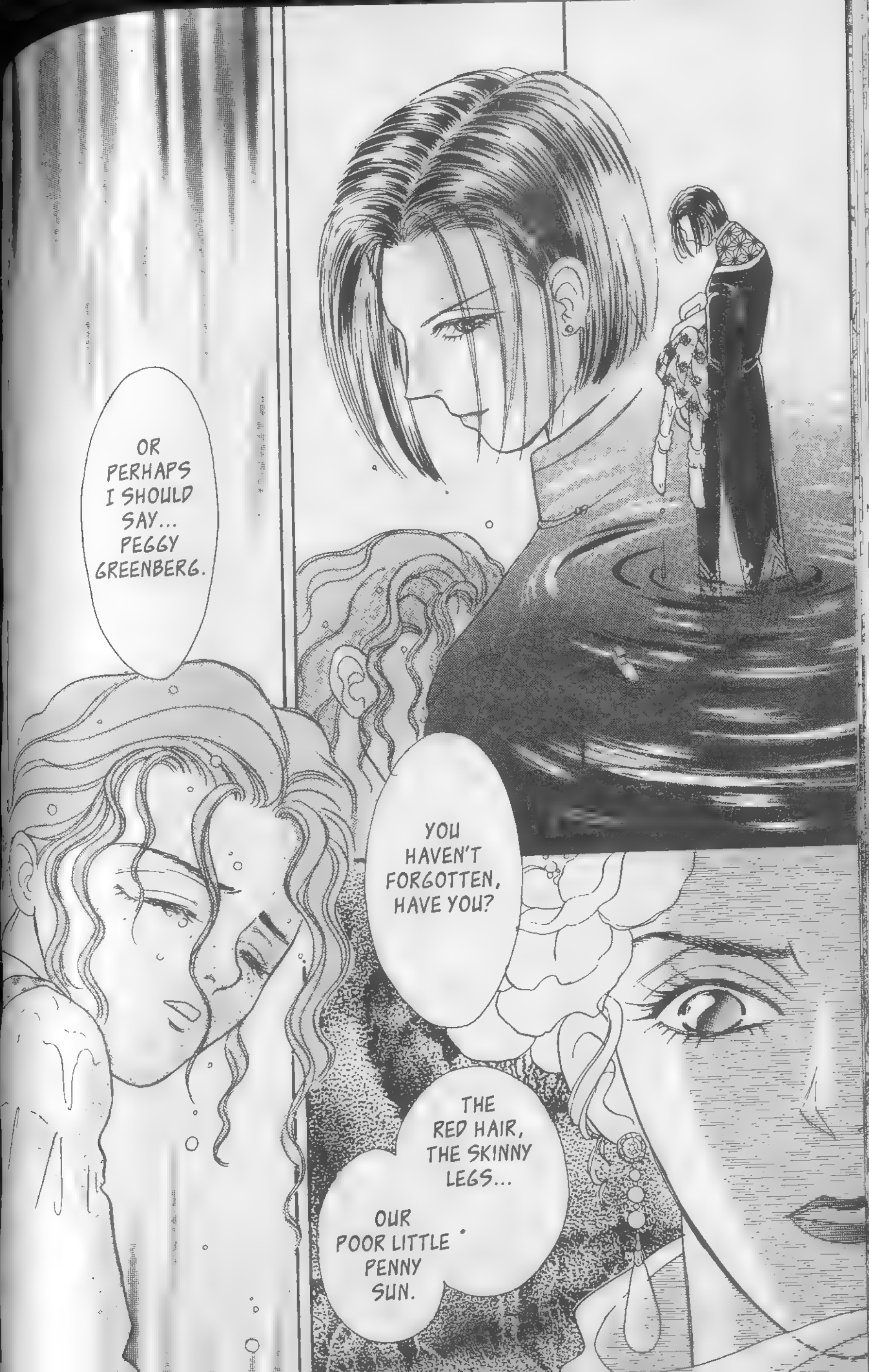

?!
NO!!!
HOW COULD YOU?!
WE HAVE THE SAME FACE!
WHY HER?! WHY CHOOSE ROE OVER ME?!!
WHY?!
PROPOSING TO PENNY ROE...
OH, JONATHAN... HOW COULD YOU?!

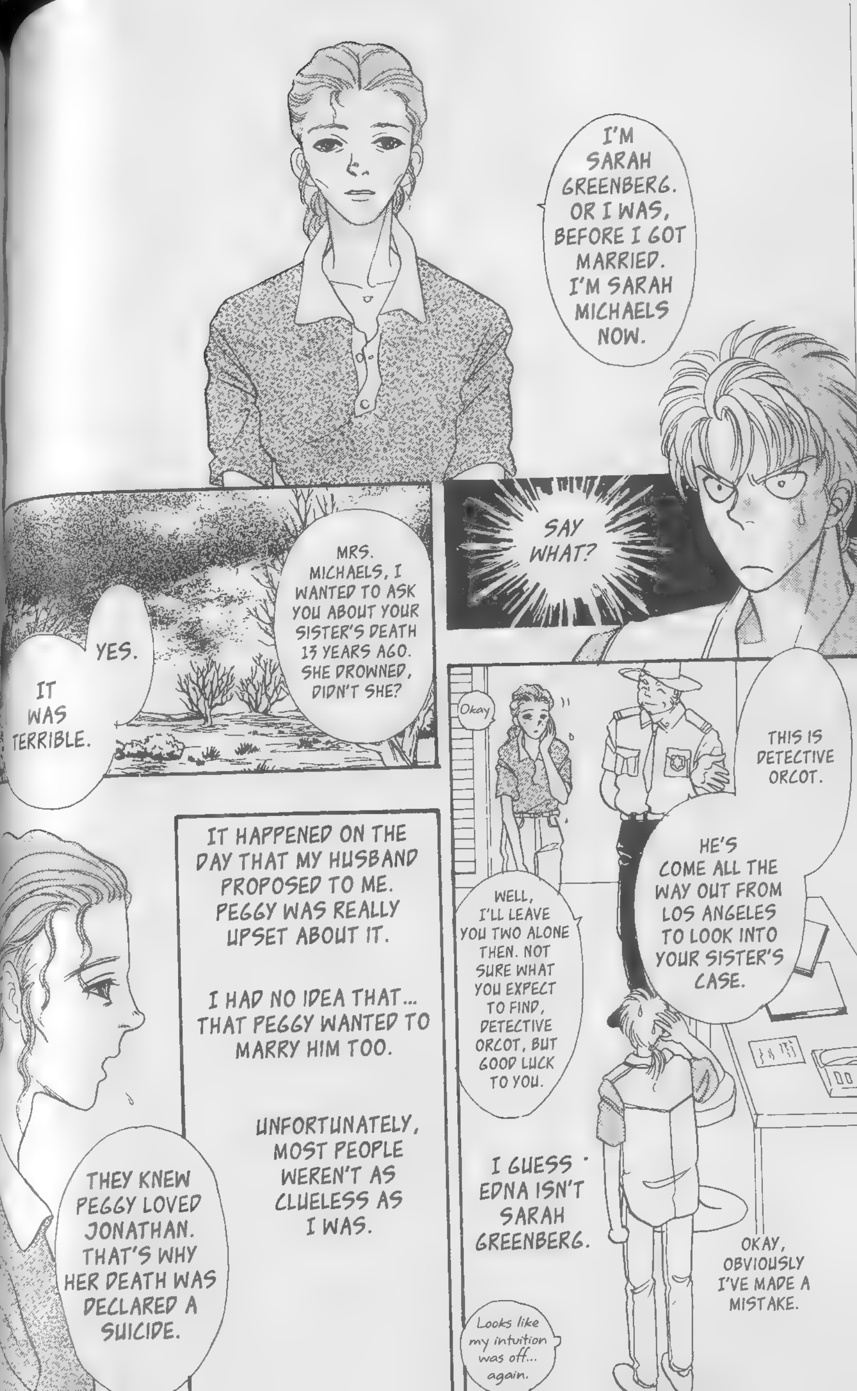

WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT BEFORE?
THIS LANDSCAPE...
GOD, THIS IS ALL SO FAMILIAR.
I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
OH, GOD...
THIS IS...
STOP!
THIS BARREN WASTELAND...
THESE GUSTS OF WIND...
THE BLACK PONDS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE VISTA...

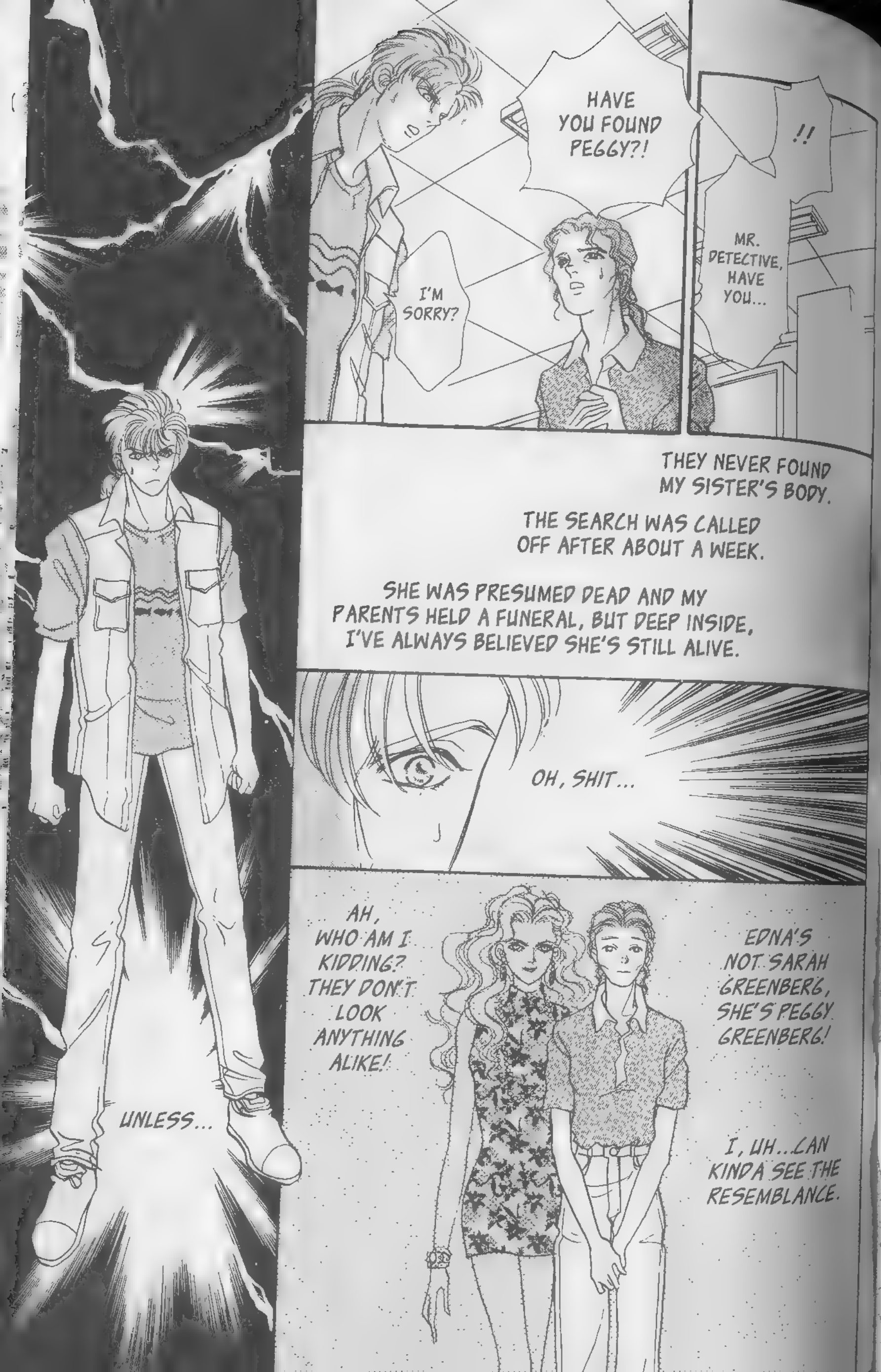

I HATE THIS FACE!
GOD DAMMIT! WHY'D WE HAVE TO LOOK THE SAME?!
WHY COULDN'T I BE JUST A LITTLE CUTER THAN ROE?!
!!

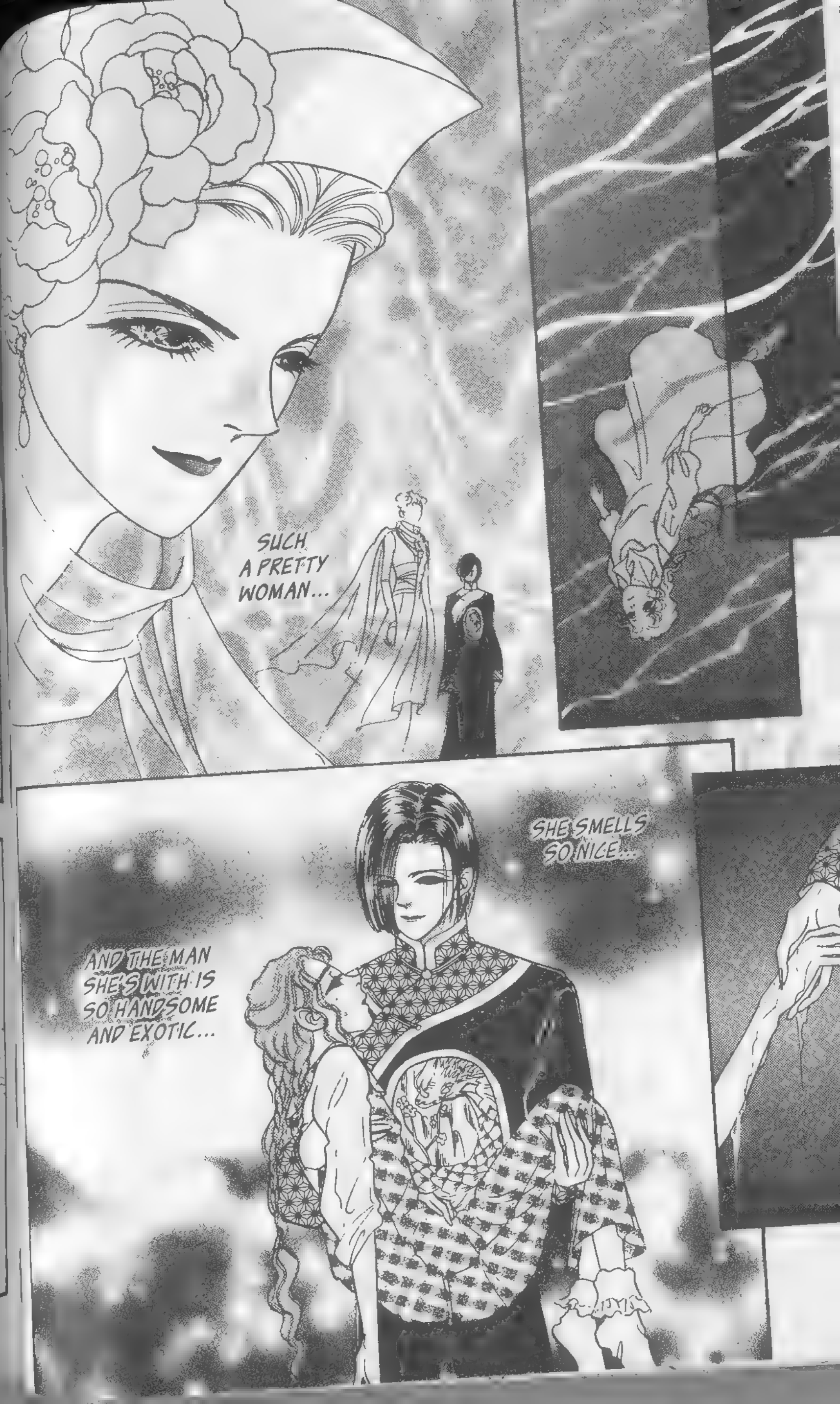

AAH!
...
...

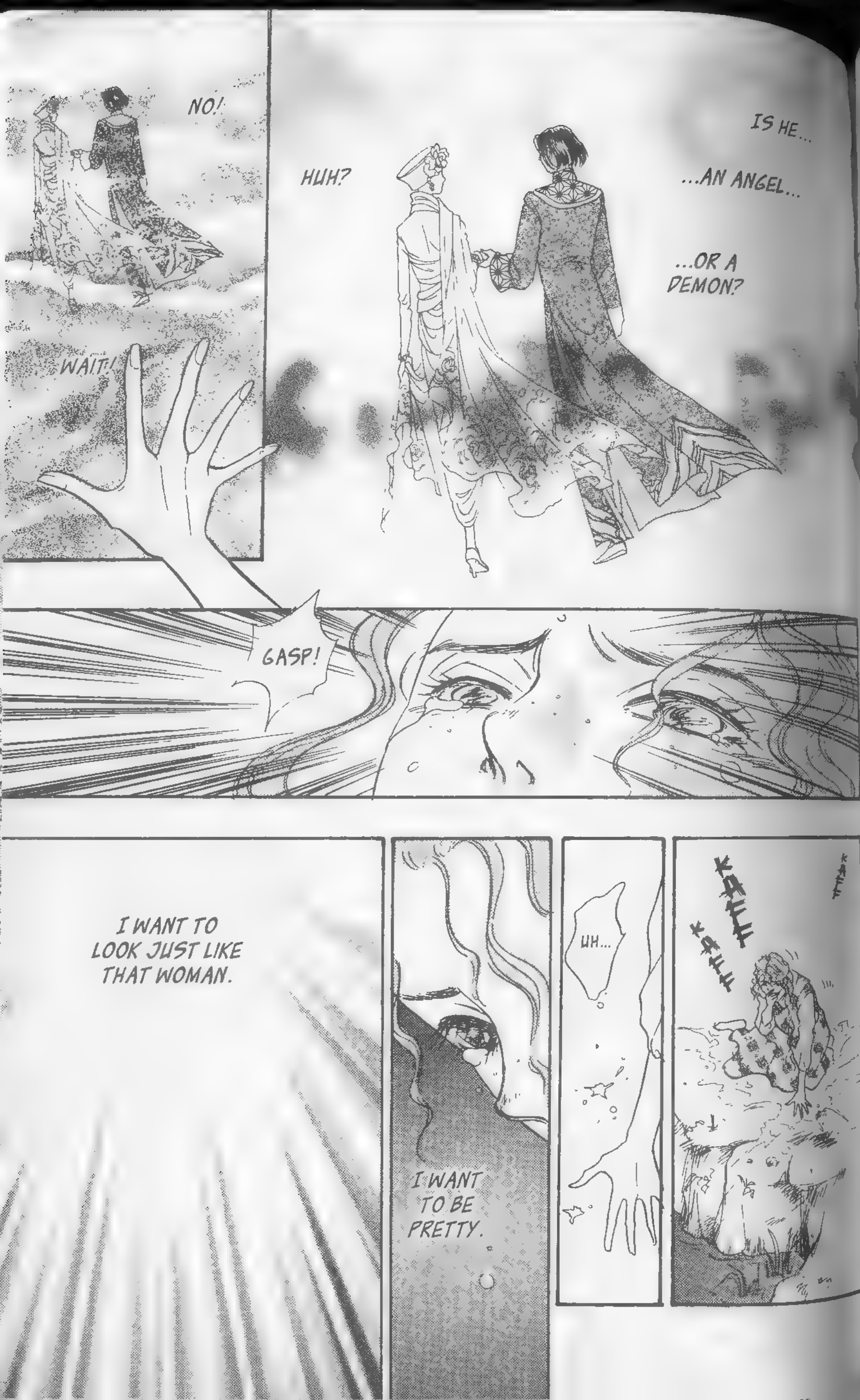

THE GIRL YOU KILLED 13 YEARS AGO.

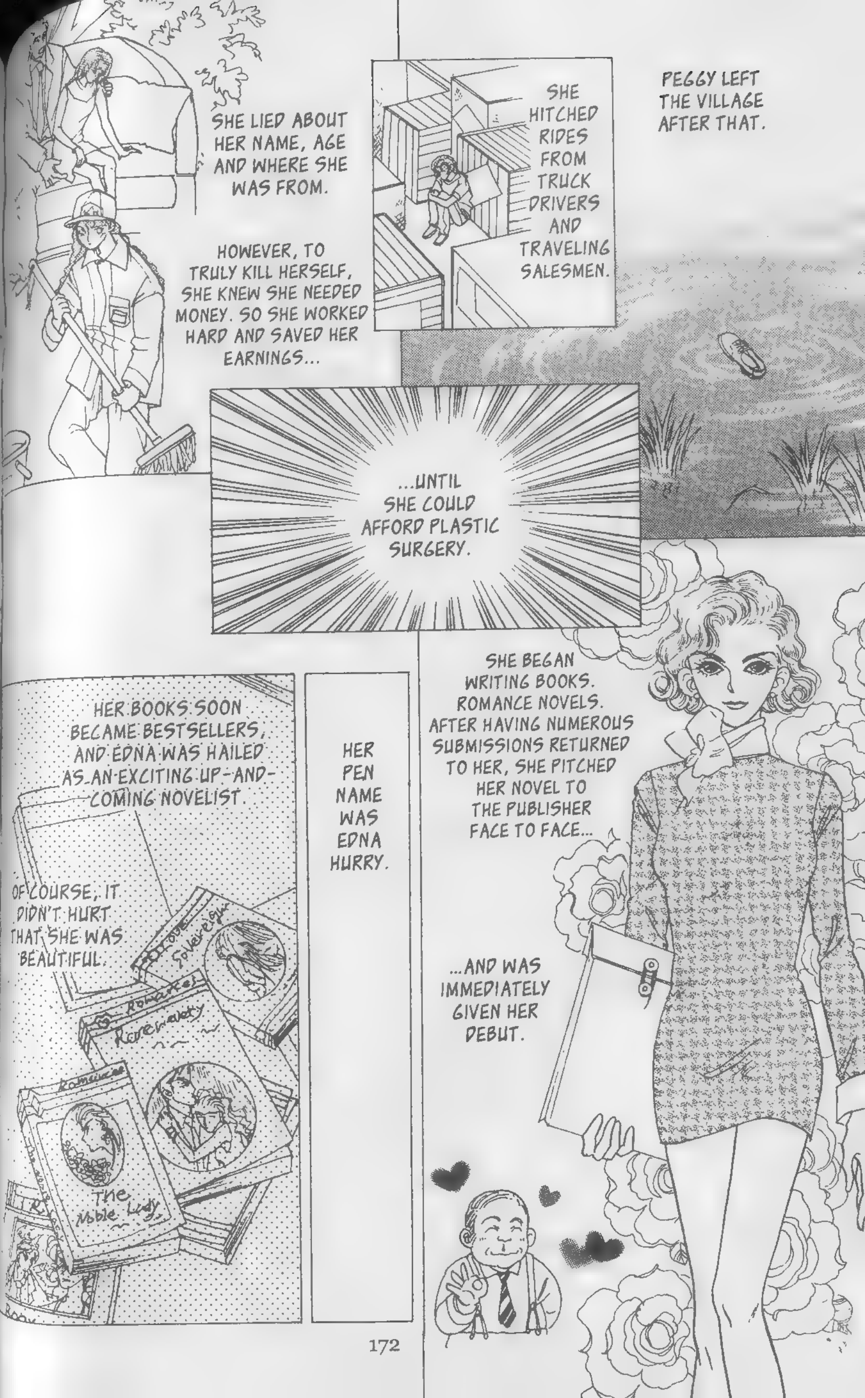

OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY... PEGGY GREENBERG.
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?
THE RED HAIR, THE SKINNY LEGS...
OUR POOR LITTLE PENNY SUN.

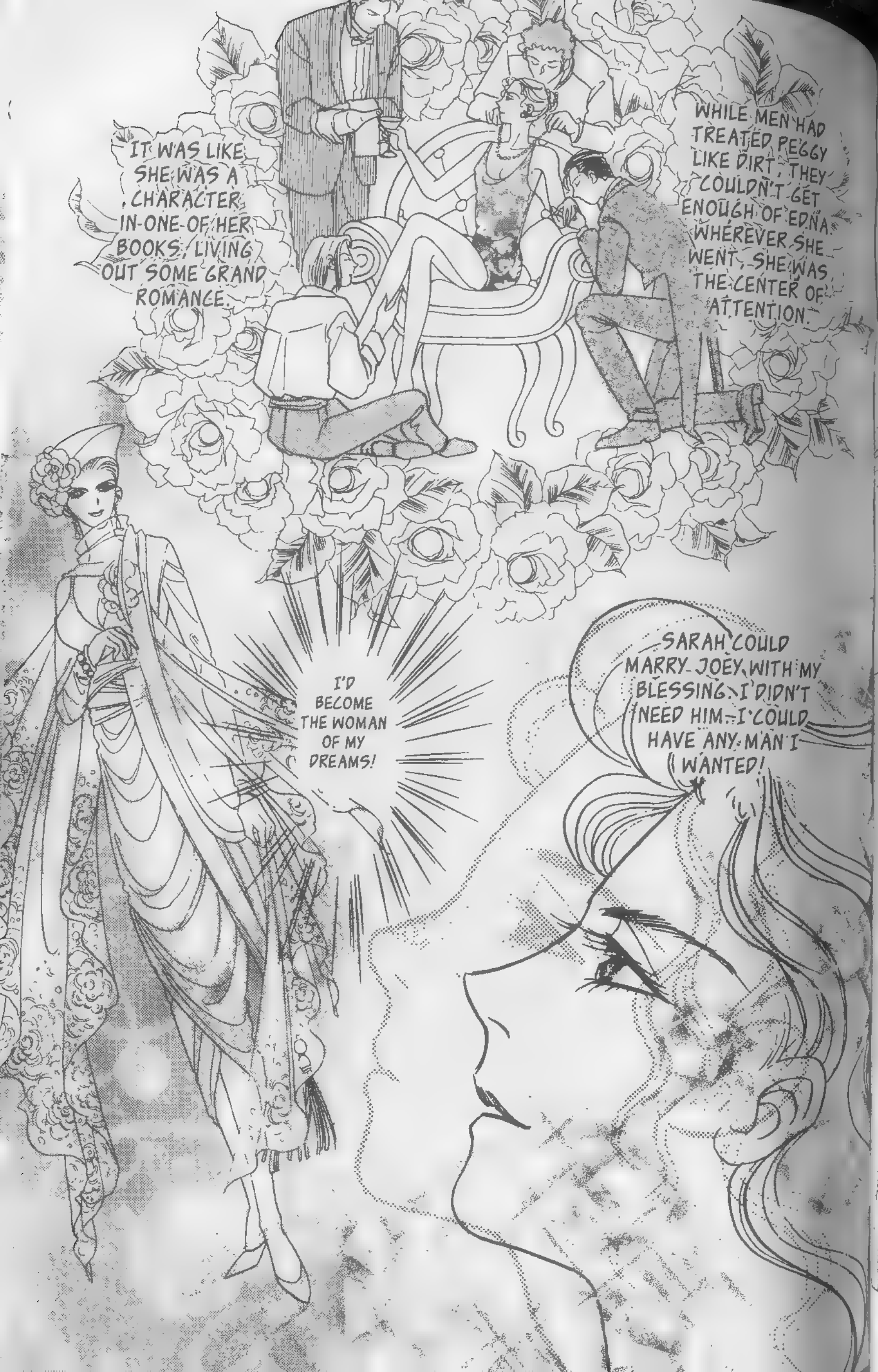

I'M SARAH GREENBERG. OR I WAS, BEFORE I GOT MARRIED. I'M SARAH MICHAELS NOW.
SAY WHAT?
THIS IS DETECTIVE ORCOT.
HE'S COME ALL THE WAY OUT FROM LOS ANGELES TO LOOK INTO YOUR SISTER'S CASE.
Okay
WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE THEN. NOT SURE WHAT YOU EXPECT TO FIND, DETECTIVE ORCOT, BUT GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
OKAY, OBVIOUSLY I'VE MADE A MISTAKE.
I GUESS EDNA ISN'T SARAH GREENBERG.
Looks like my intuition was off... again.
MRS. MICHAELS, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR SISTER'S DEATH 13 YEARS AGO. SHE DROWNED, DIDN'T SHE?
YES.
IT WAS TERRIBLE.
IT HAPPENED ON THE DAY THAT MY HUSBAND PROPOSED TO ME. PEGGY WAS REALLY UPSET ABOUT IT.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT... THAT PEGGY WANTED TO MARRY HIM TOO.
UNFORTUNATELY, MOST PEOPLE WEREN'T AS CLUELESS AS I WAS.
THEY KNEW PEGGY LOVED JONATHAN. THAT'S WHY HER DEATH WAS DECLARED A SUICIDE.

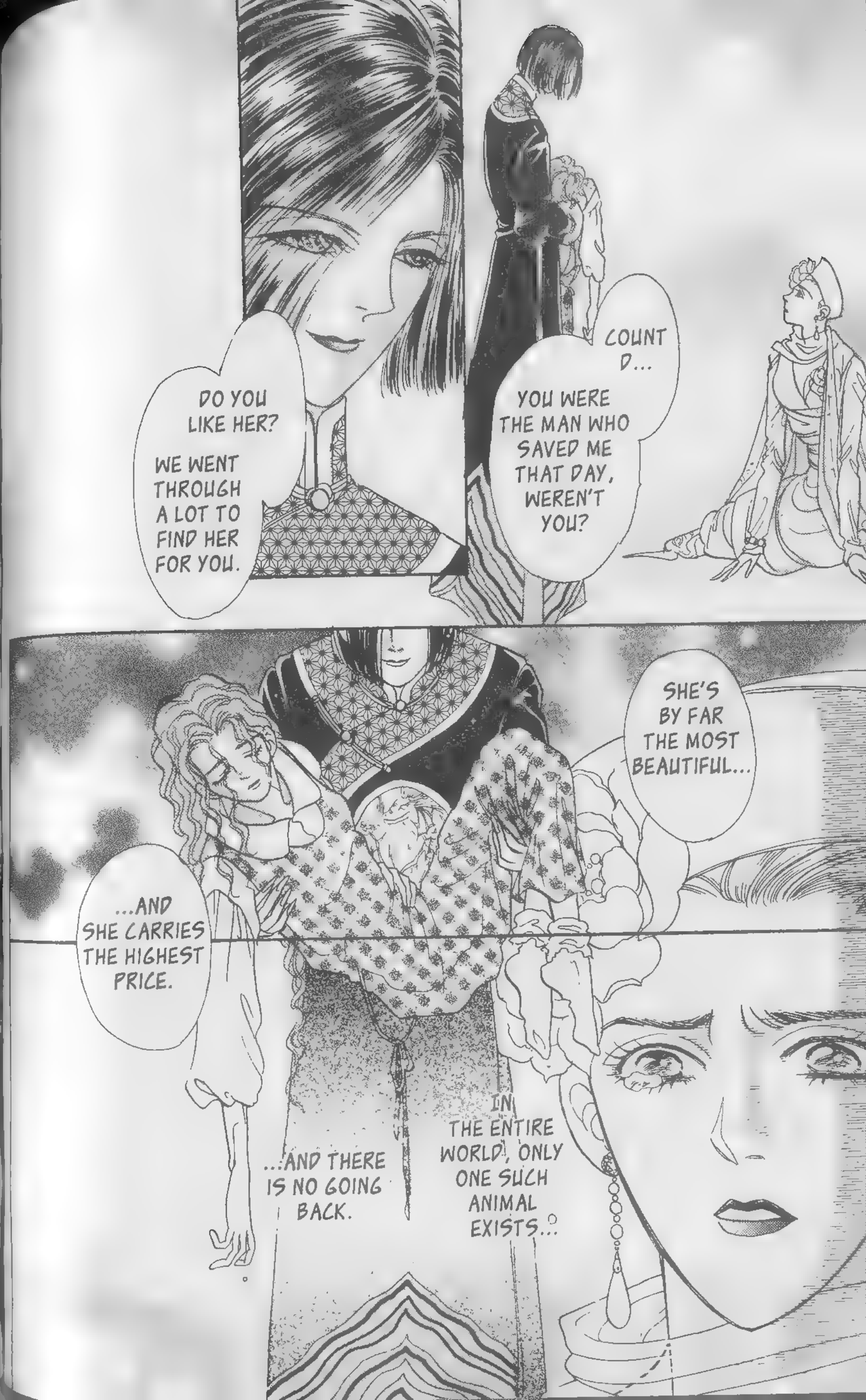

!!
MR. DETECTIVE, HAVE YOU...
HAVE YOU FOUND PEGGY?!
I'M SORRY?
THEY NEVER FOUND MY SISTER'S BODY.
THE SEARCH WAS CALLED OFF AFTER ABOUT A WEEK.
SHE WAS PRESUMED DEAD AND MY PARENTS HELD A FUNERAL, BUT DEEP INSIDE, I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
OH, SHIT...
EDNA'S NOT SARAH GREENBERG, SHE'S PEGGY GREENBERG!
I, UH...CAN KINDA SEE THE RESEMBLANCE.
AH, WHO AM I KIDDING? THEY DON'T LOOK ANYTHING ALIKE!
UNLESS...

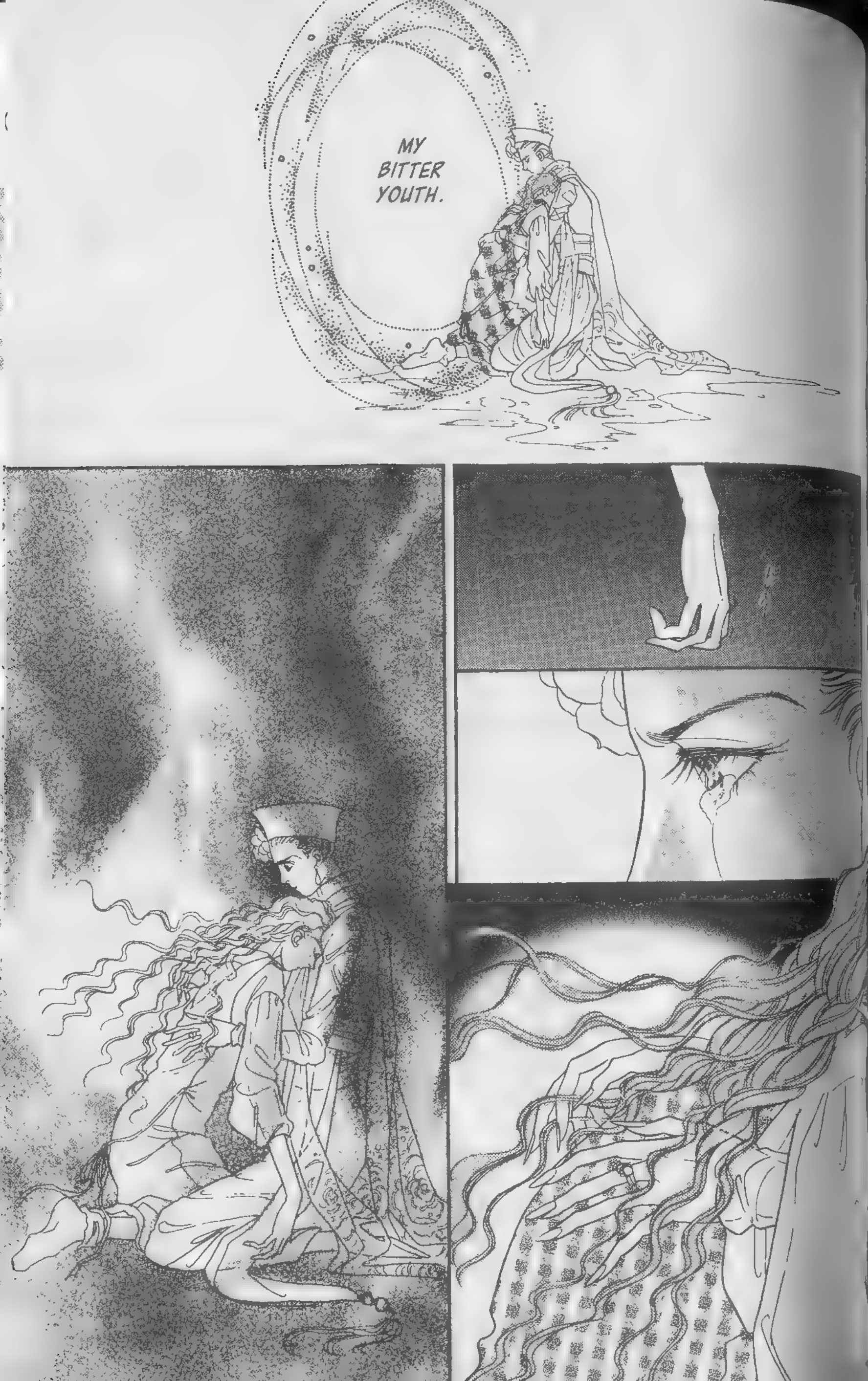

SUCH A PRETTY WOMAN...
SHE SMELLS SO NICE...
AND THE MAN SHE'S WITH IS SO HANDSOME AND EXOTIC...

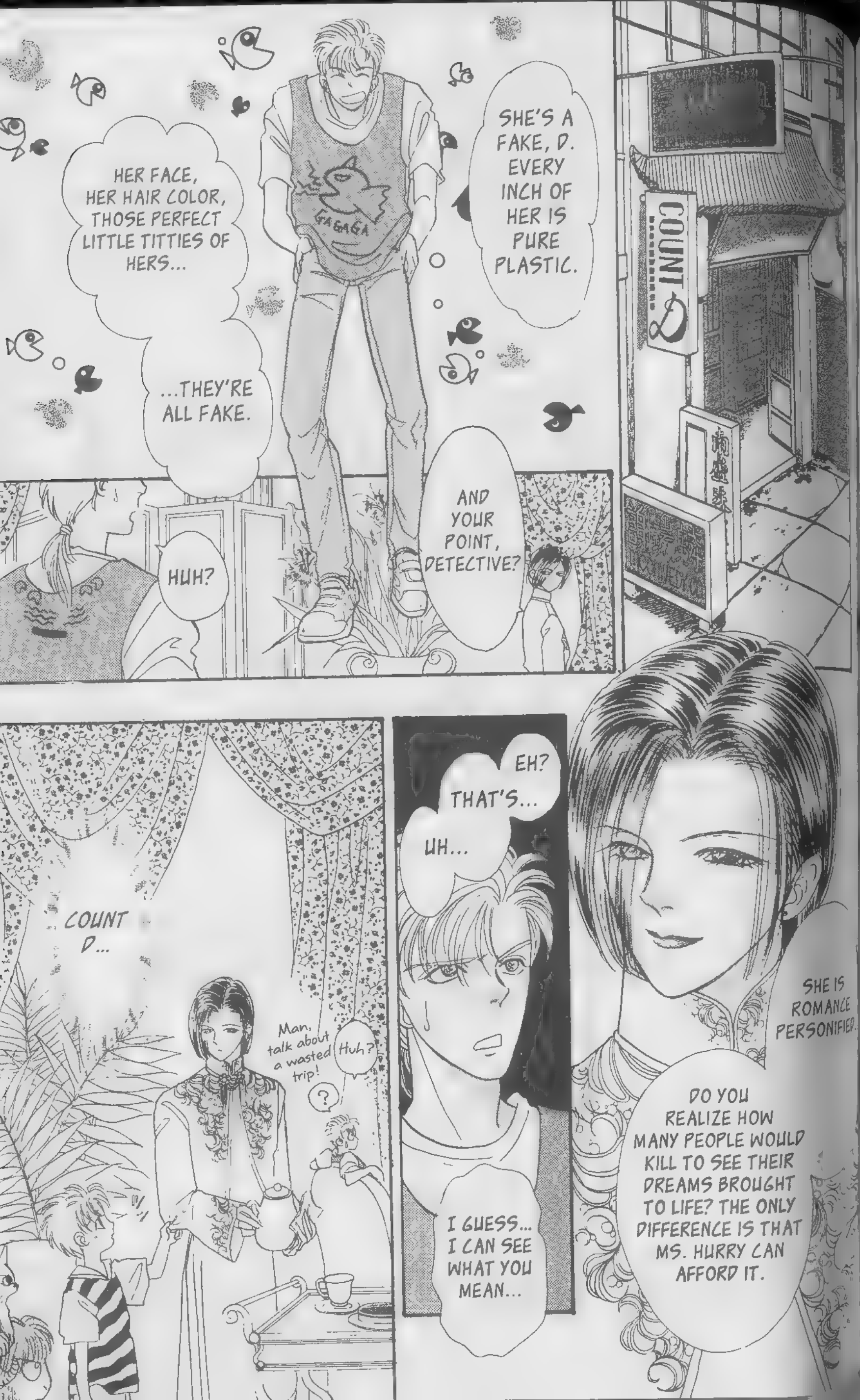

IS HE...
...AN ANGEL...
...OR A DEMON?
HUH?
NO!
WAIT!
GASP!
KAFF
KAFF
KAFF
UH...
I WANT TO BE PRETTY.
I WANT TO LOOK JUST LIKE THAT WOMAN.

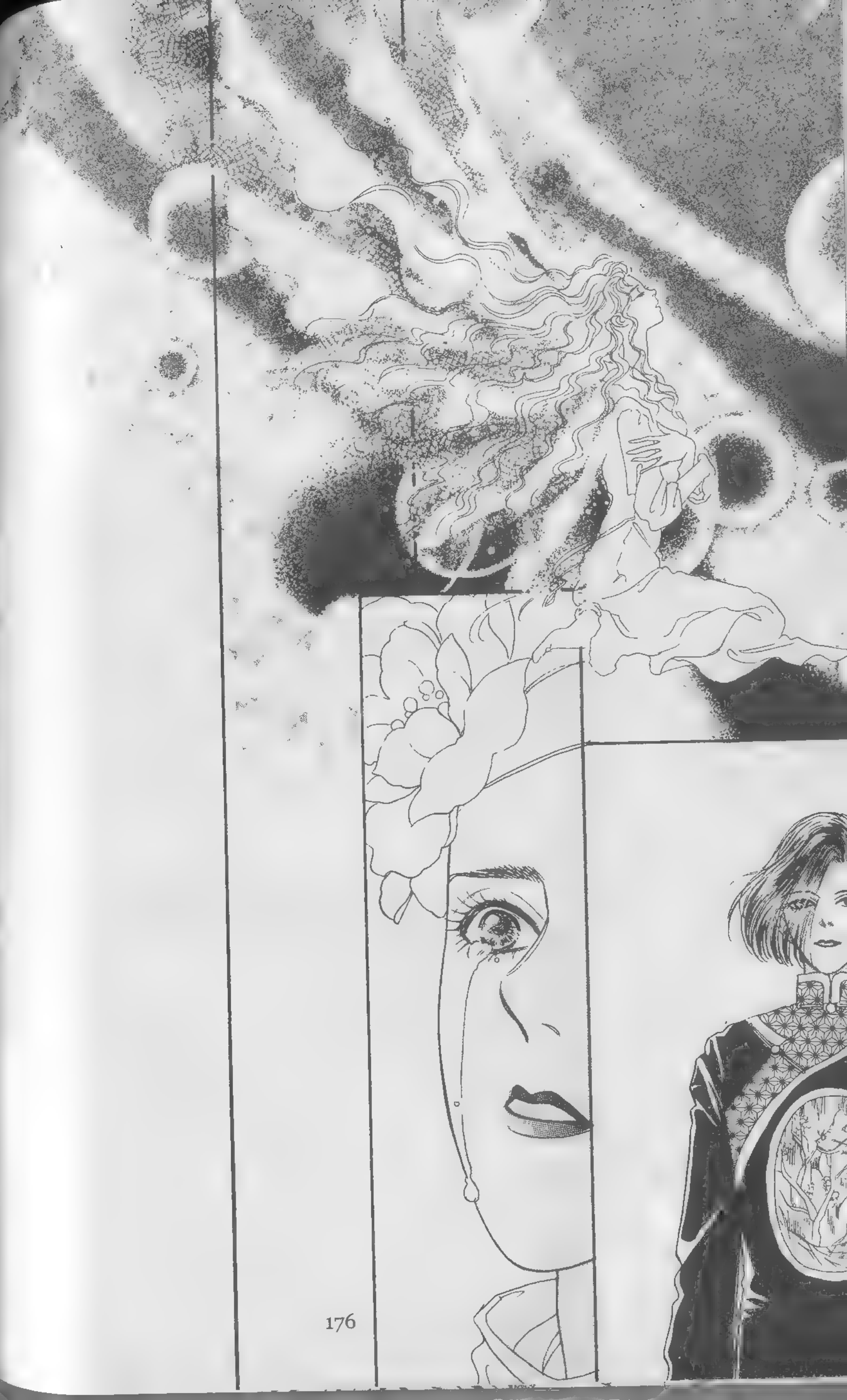

PEGGY LEFT THE VILLAGE AFTER THAT.
SHE HITCHED RIDES FROM TRUCK DRIVERS AND TRAVELING SALESMEN.
SHE LIED ABOUT HER NAME, AGE AND WHERE SHE WAS FROM.
HOWEVER, TO TRULY KILL HERSELF, SHE KNEW SHE NEEDED MONEY. SO SHE WORKED HARD AND SAVED HER EARNINGS...
...UNTIL SHE COULD AFFORD PLASTIC SURGERY.
SHE BEGAN WRITING BOOKS. ROMANCE NOVELS. AFTER HAVING NUMEROUS SUBMISSIONS RETURNED TO HER, SHE PITCHED HER NOVEL TO THE PUBLISHER FACE TO FACE...
...AND WAS IMMEDIATELY GIVEN HER DEBUT.
HER PEN NAME WAS EDNA HURRY.
HER BOOKS SOON BECAME BESTSELLERS, AND EDNA WAS HAILED AS AN EXCITING UP-AND-COMING NOVELIST.
OF COURSE, IT DIDN'T HURT THAT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL.
The Noble Lady

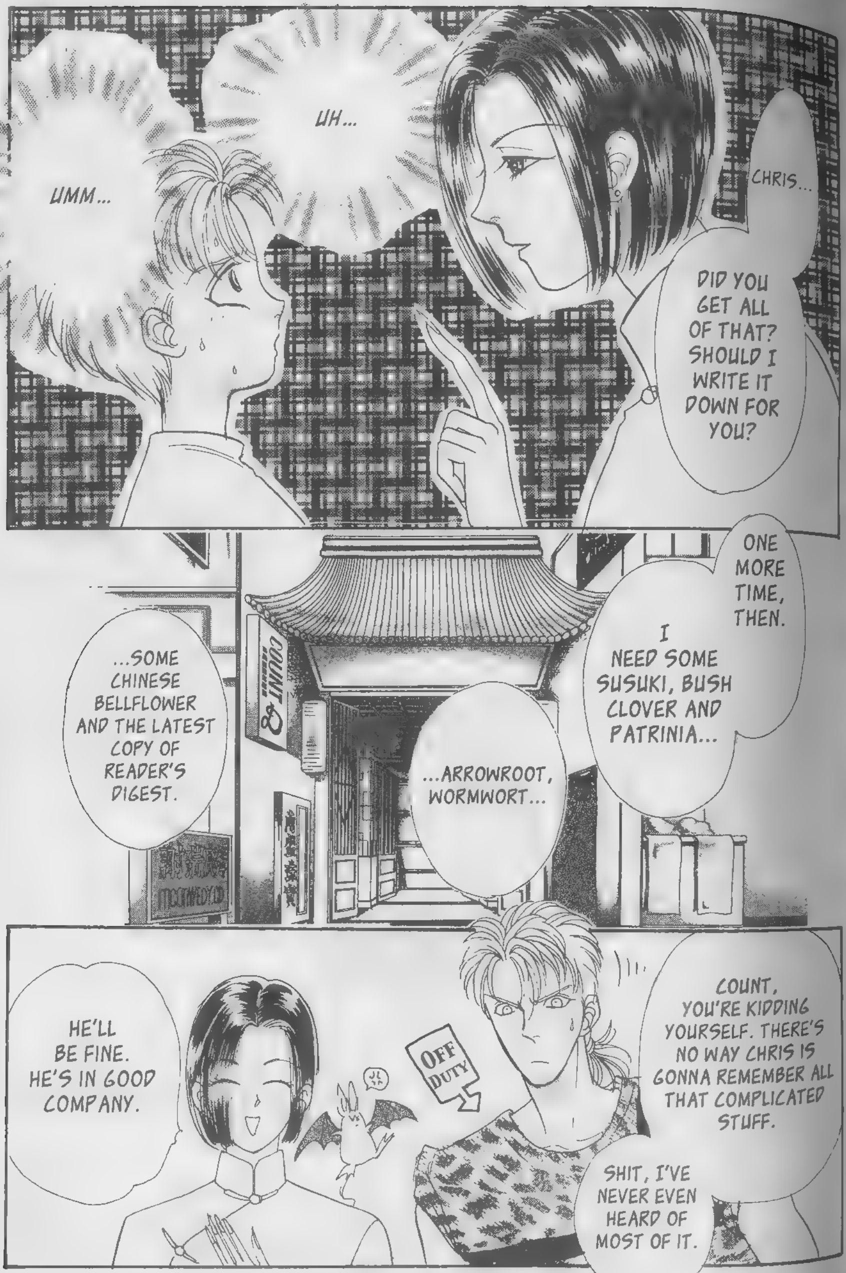

WHILE MEN HAD TREATED PEGGY LIKE DIRT, THEY COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF EDNA. WHEREVER SHE WENT, SHE WAS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS A CHARACTER IN ONE OF HER BOOKS, LIVING OUT SOME GRAND ROMANCE.
SARAH COULD MARRY JOEY WITH MY BLESSING. I DIDN'T NEED HIM. I COULD HAVE ANY MAN I WANTED!
I'D BECOME THE WOMAN OF MY DREAMS!

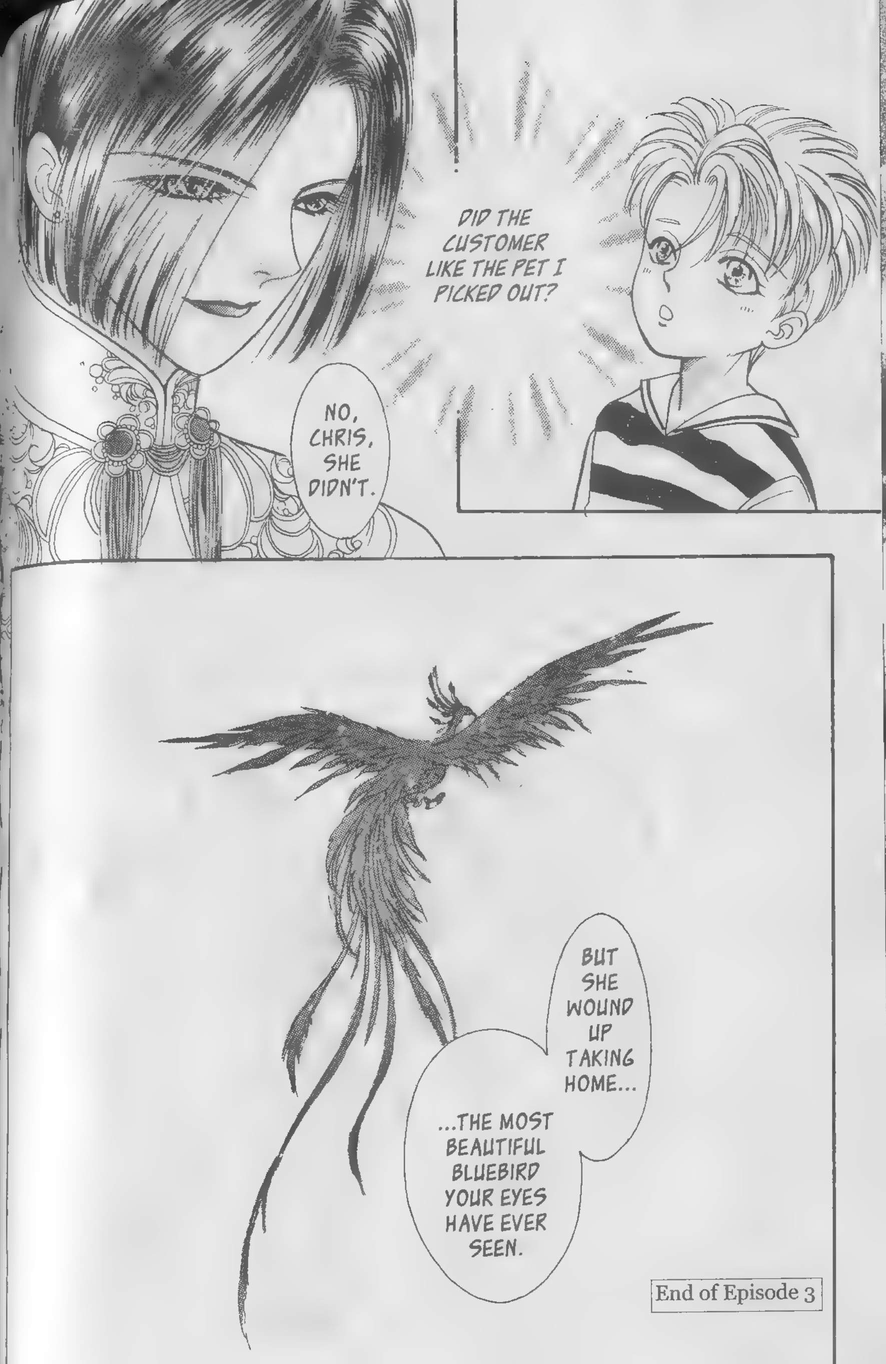

COUNT D...
YOU WERE THE MAN WHO SAVED ME THAT DAY, WEREN'T YOU?
DO YOU LIKE HER?
WE WENT THROUGH A LOT TO FIND HER FOR YOU.
SHE'S BY FAR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL...
...AND SHE CARRIES THE HIGHEST PRICE.
IN THE ENTIRE WORLD, ONLY ONE SUCH ANIMAL EXISTS...
...AND THERE IS NO GOING BACK.


MY BITTER YOUTH.

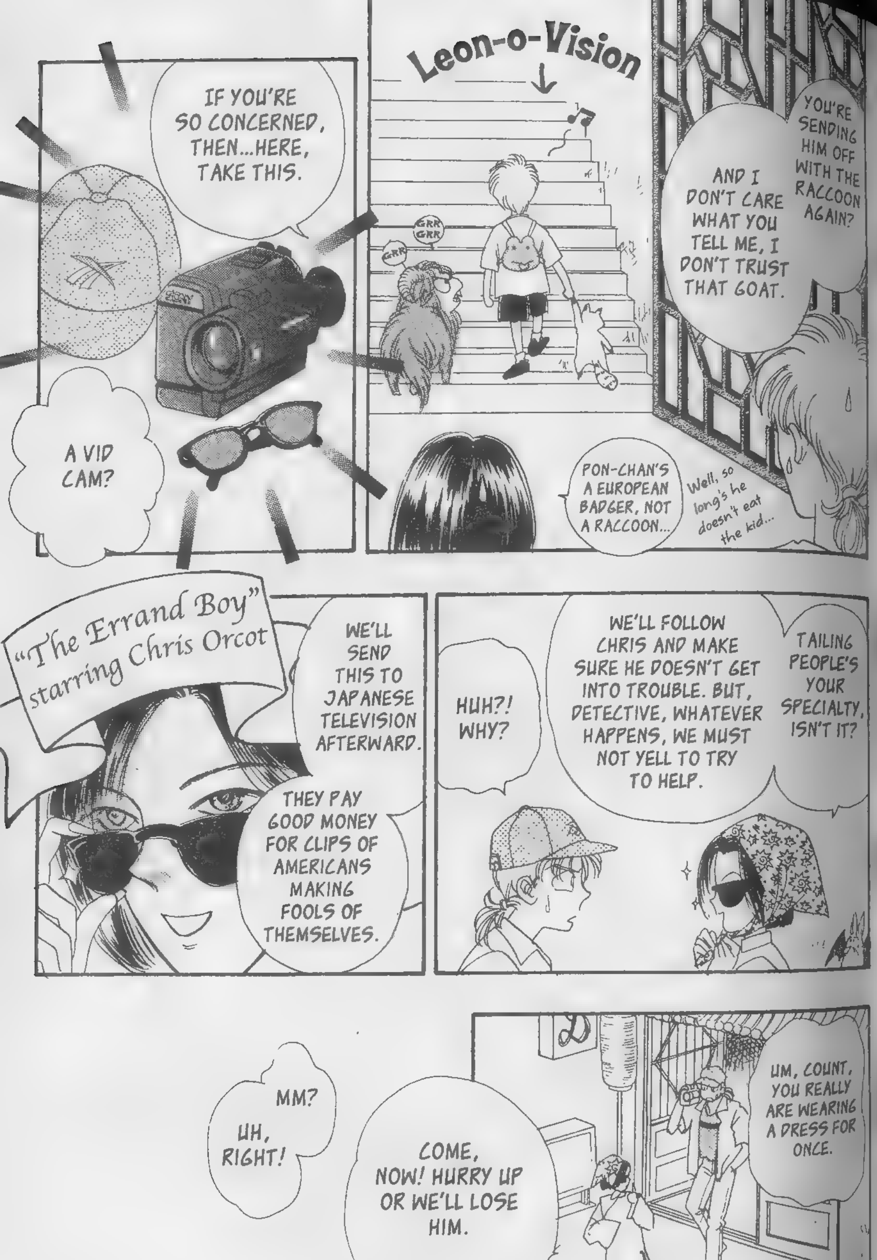

HER FACE, HER HAIR COLOR, THOSE PERFECT LITTLE TITTIES OF HERS...
...THEY'RE ALL FAKE.
SHE'S A FAKE, D. EVERY INCH OF HER IS PURE PLASTIC.
COUNT D
HUH?
AND YOUR POINT, DETECTIVE?
COUNT D...
Man, talk about a wasted trip!
Huh?
?
EH?
THAT'S...
UH...
SHE IS ROMANCE PERSONIFIED.
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD KILL TO SEE THEIR DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE? THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT MS. HURRY CAN AFFORD IT.
I GUESS... I CAN SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...

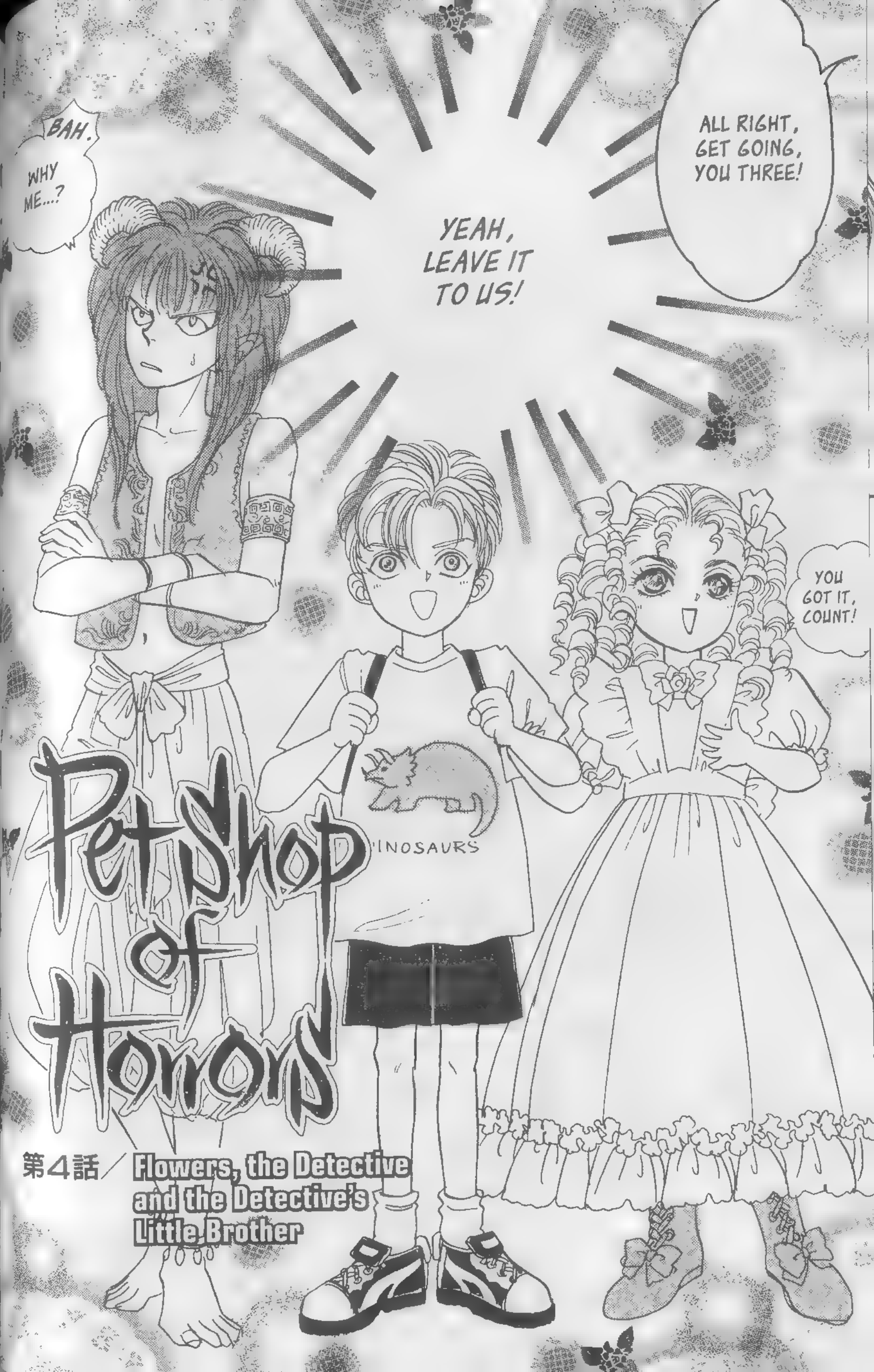



UMM...
UH...
CHRIS...
DID YOU GET ALL OF THAT? SHOULD I WRITE IT DOWN FOR YOU?
COUNT D
ONE MORE TIME, THEN.
I NEED SOME SUSUKI, BUSH CLOVER AND PATRINIA...
...ARROWROOT, WORMWORT...
...SOME CHINESE BELLFLOWER AND THE LATEST COPY OF READER'S DIGEST.
COUNT, YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELF. THERE'S NO WAY CHRIS IS GONNA REMEMBER ALL THAT COMPLICATED STUFF.
SHIT, I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF MOST OF IT.
OFF DUTY
HE'LL BE FINE. HE'S IN GOOD COMPANY.


DID THE CUSTOMER LIKE THE PET I PICKED OUT?
NO, CHRIS, SHE DIDN'T.
BUT SHE WOUND UP TAKING HOME...
...THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BLUEBIRD YOUR EYES HAVE EVER SEEN.

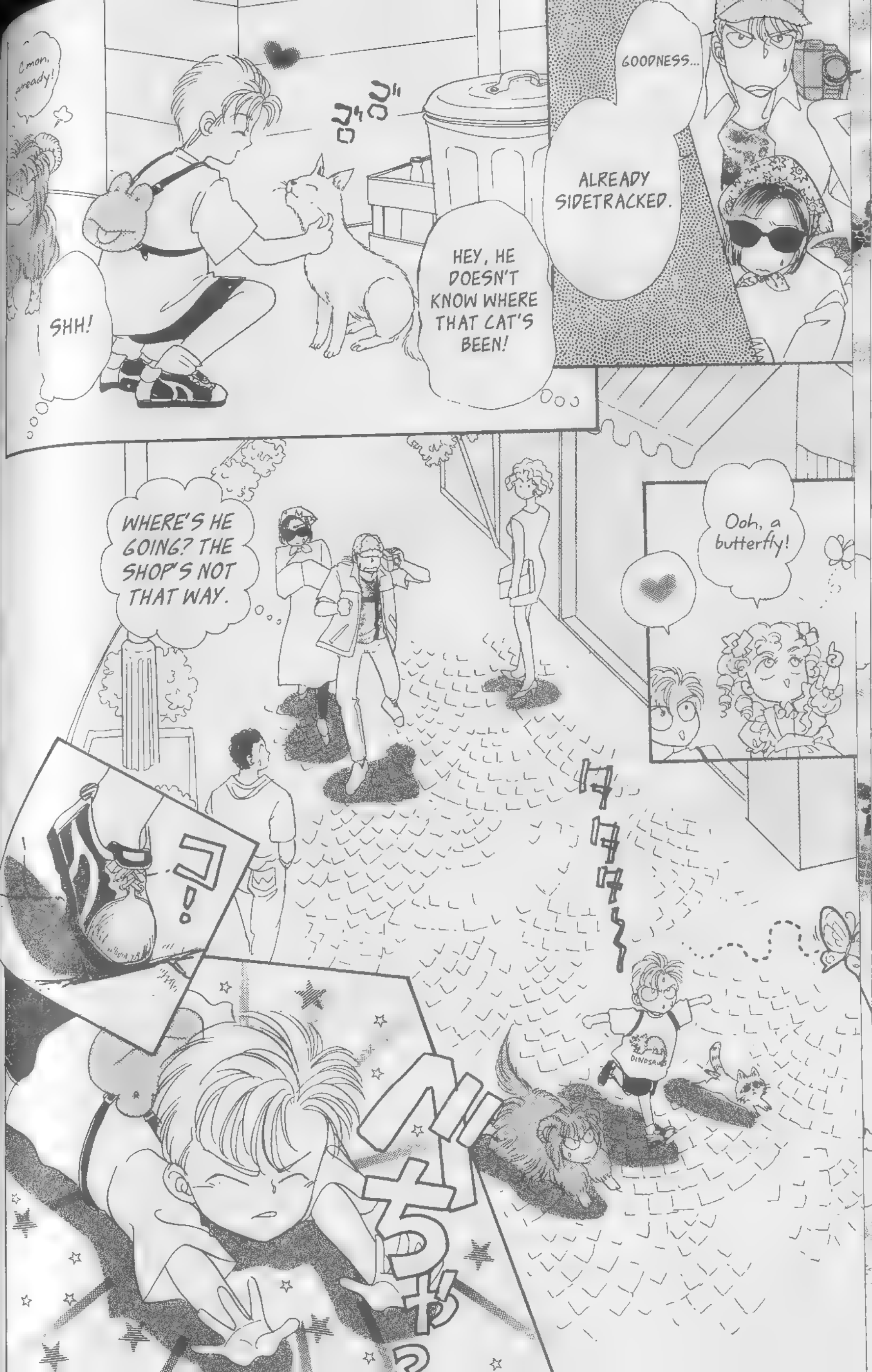
End of Episode 3

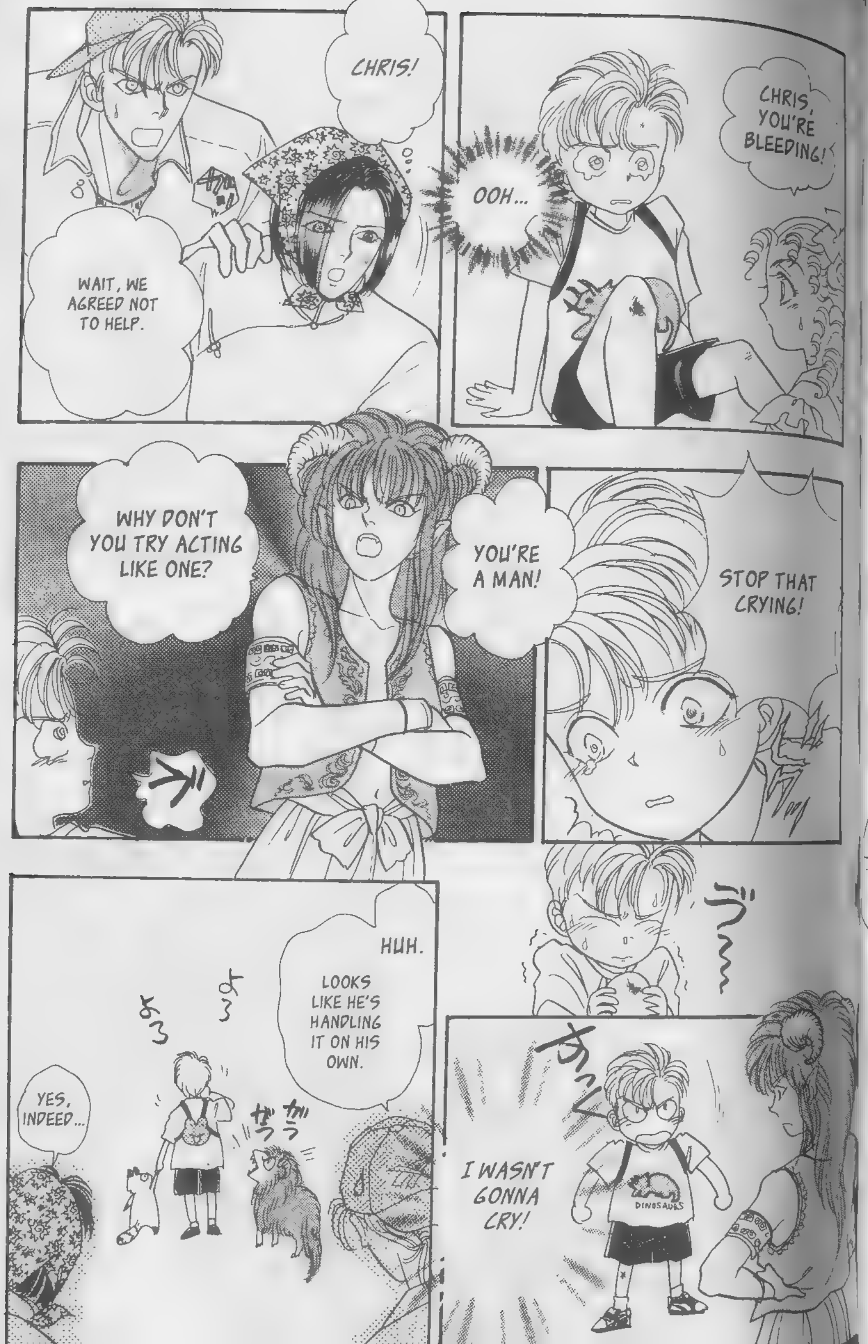

Leon-o-Vision
GRR GRR
GRR
YOU'RE SENDING HIM OFF WITH THE RACCOON AGAIN?
AND I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU TELL ME, I DON'T TRUST THAT GOAT.
PON-CHAN'S A EUROPEAN BADGER, NOT A RACCOON...
Well, so long's he doesn't eat the kid...
IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED, THEN...HERE, TAKE THIS.
A VID CAM?
TAILING PEOPLE'S YOUR SPECIALTY, ISN'T IT?
WE'LL FOLLOW CHRIS AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET INTO TROUBLE. BUT, DETECTIVE, WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE MUST NOT YELL TO TRY TO HELP.
HUH?! WHY?
"The Errand Boy" starring Chris Orcot
WE'LL SEND THIS TO JAPANESE TELEVISION AFTERWARD.
THEY PAY GOOD MONEY FOR CLIPS OF AMERICANS MAKING FOOLS OF THEMSELVES.
UM, COUNT, YOU REALLY ARE WEARING A DRESS FOR ONCE.
COME, NOW! HURRY UP OR WE'LL LOSE HIM.
MM?
UH, RIGHT!

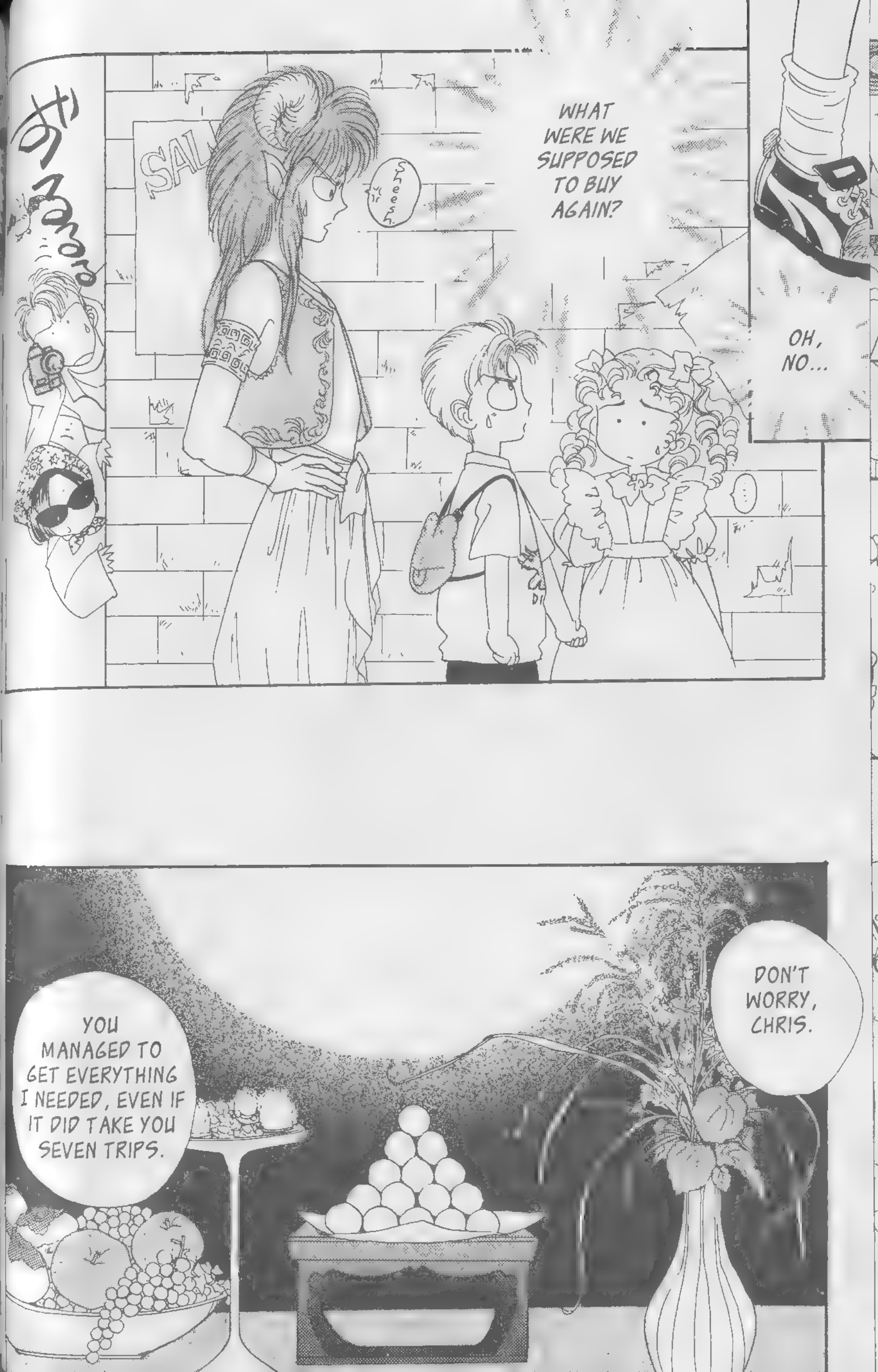

ALL RIGHT, GET GOING, YOU THREE!
YEAH, LEAVE IT TO US!
YOU GOT IT, COUNT!
BAH.
WHY ME...?
INOSAURS

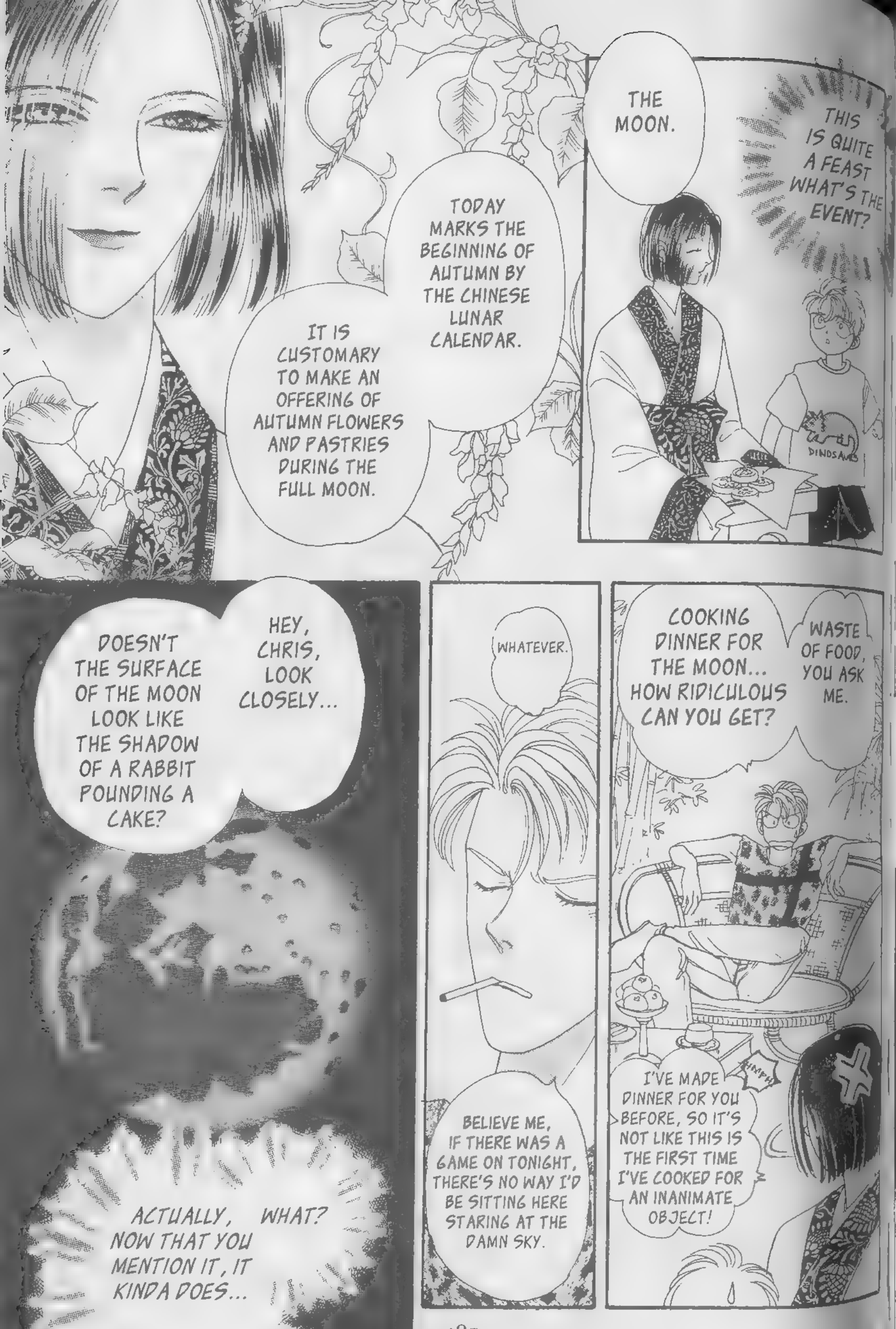
Pet Shop of Horrors

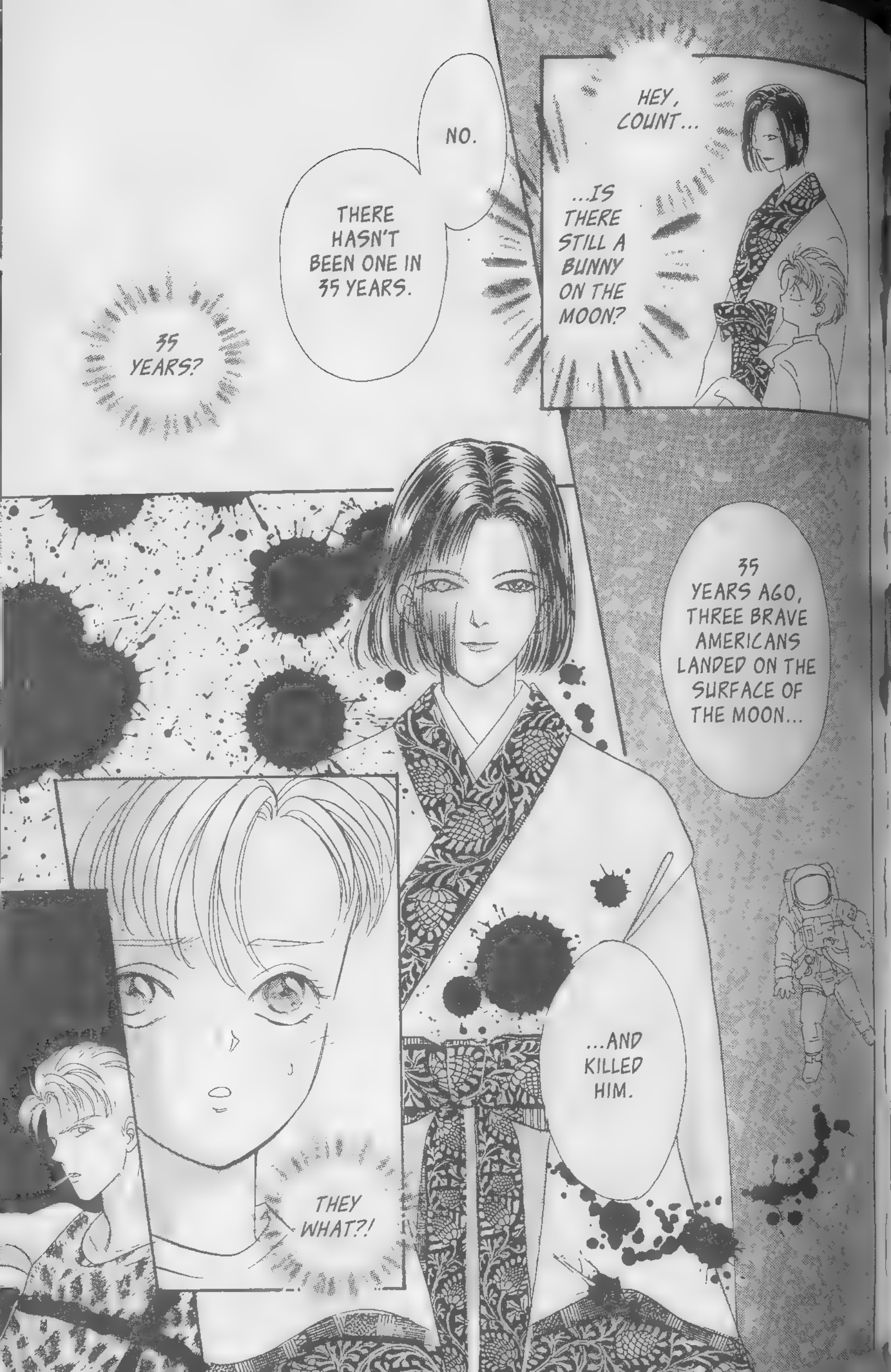
第4話／ Flowers, the Detective and the Detective's Little Brother

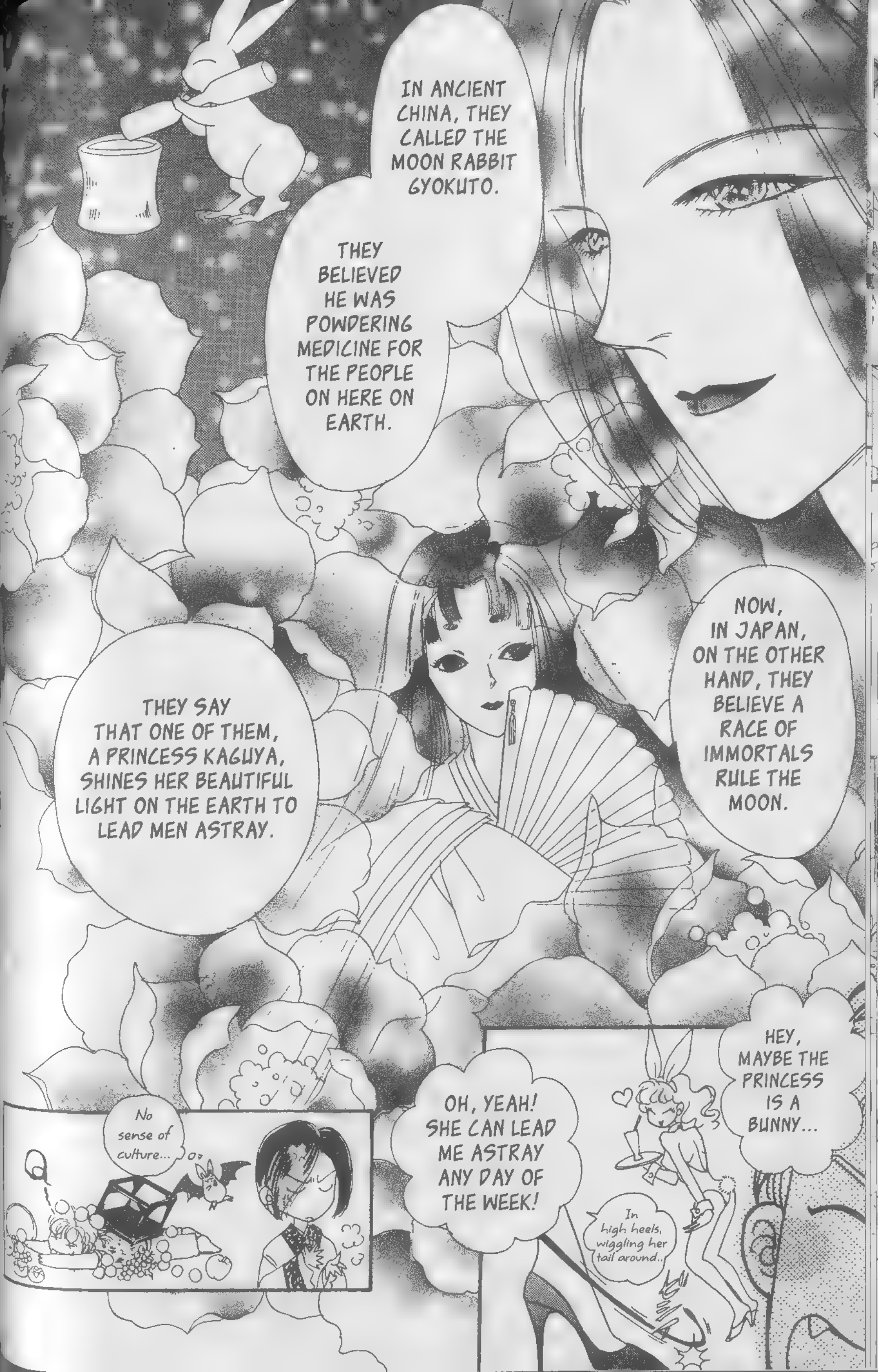

GOODNESS...
ALREADY SIDETRACKED.
HEY, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THAT CAT'S BEEN!
ゴロゴロ
SHH!
C'mon, already!
Ooh, a butterfly!
WHERE'S HE GOING? THE SHOP'S NOT THAT WAY.
けけけ～
コ!
ベちゃっ

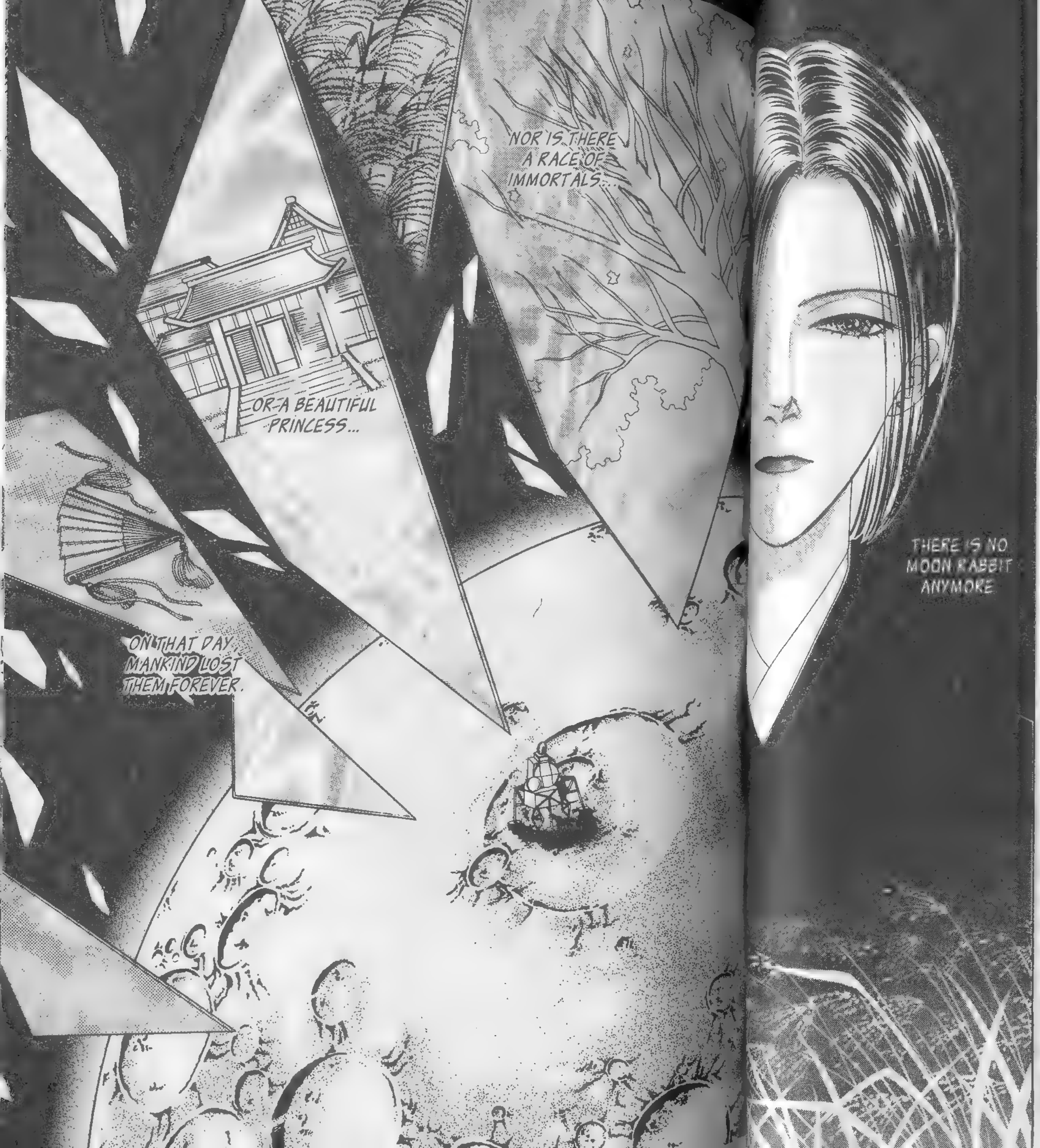

CHRIS, YOU'RE BLEEDING!
OOH...
CHRIS!
WAIT, WE AGREED NOT TO HELP.
STOP THAT CRYING!
YOU'RE A MAN!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY ACTING LIKE ONE?
ズ
う～
すっく
I WASN'T GONNA CRY!
HUH.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HANDLING IT ON HIS OWN.
よろよろ
ガラガラ
YES, INDEED...

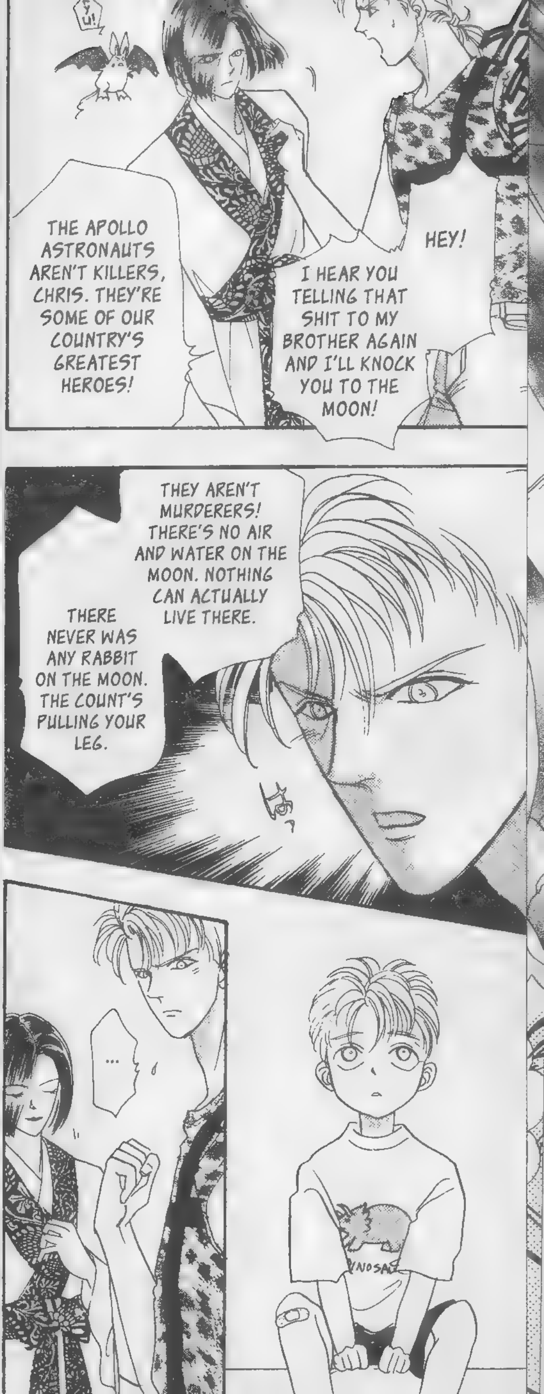

WHAT WERE WE SUPPOSED TO BUY AGAIN?
OH, NO...
Sheesh.
おろおろ
SAL
...
DON'T WORRY, CHRIS.
YOU MANAGED TO GET EVERYTHING I NEEDED, EVEN IF IT DID TAKE YOU SEVEN TRIPS.

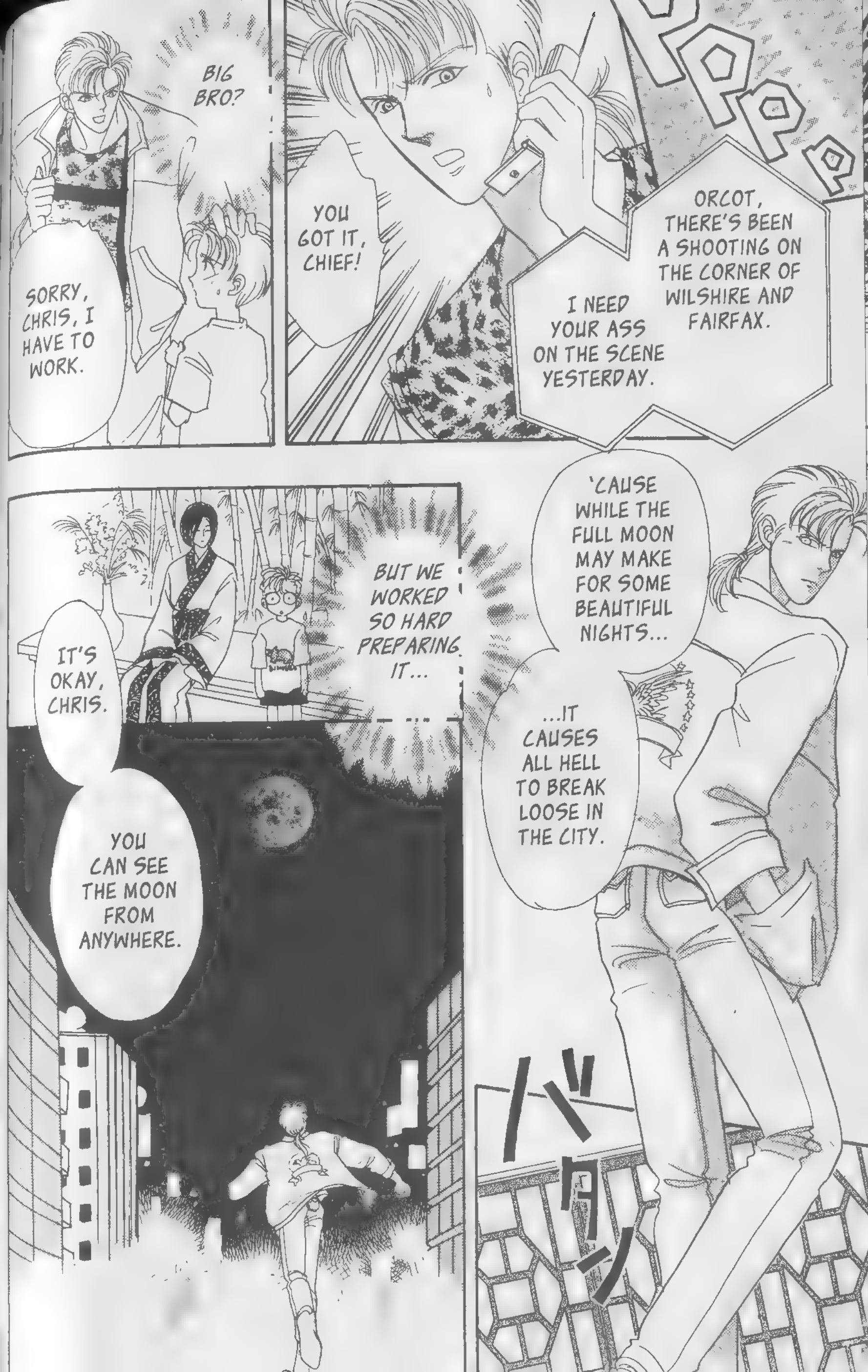

THIS IS QUITE A FEAST WHAT'S THE EVENT?
THE MOON.
TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF AUTUMN BY THE CHINESE LUNAR CALENDAR.
IT IS CUSTOMARY TO MAKE AN OFFERING OF AUTUMN FLOWERS AND PASTRIES DURING THE FULL MOON.
DINOSAURS
WASTE OF FOOD, YOU ASK ME.
COOKING DINNER FOR THE MOON... HOW RIDICULOUS CAN YOU GET?
HMPH
I'VE MADE DINNER FOR YOU BEFORE, SO IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE COOKED FOR AN INANIMATE OBJECT!
WHATEVER.
BELIEVE ME, IF THERE WAS A GAME ON TONIGHT, THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE SITTING HERE STARING AT THE DAMN SKY.
HEY, CHRIS, LOOK CLOSELY...
DOESN'T THE SURFACE OF THE MOON LOOK LIKE THE SHADOW OF A RABBIT POUNDING A CAKE?
WHAT?
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT KINDA DOES...

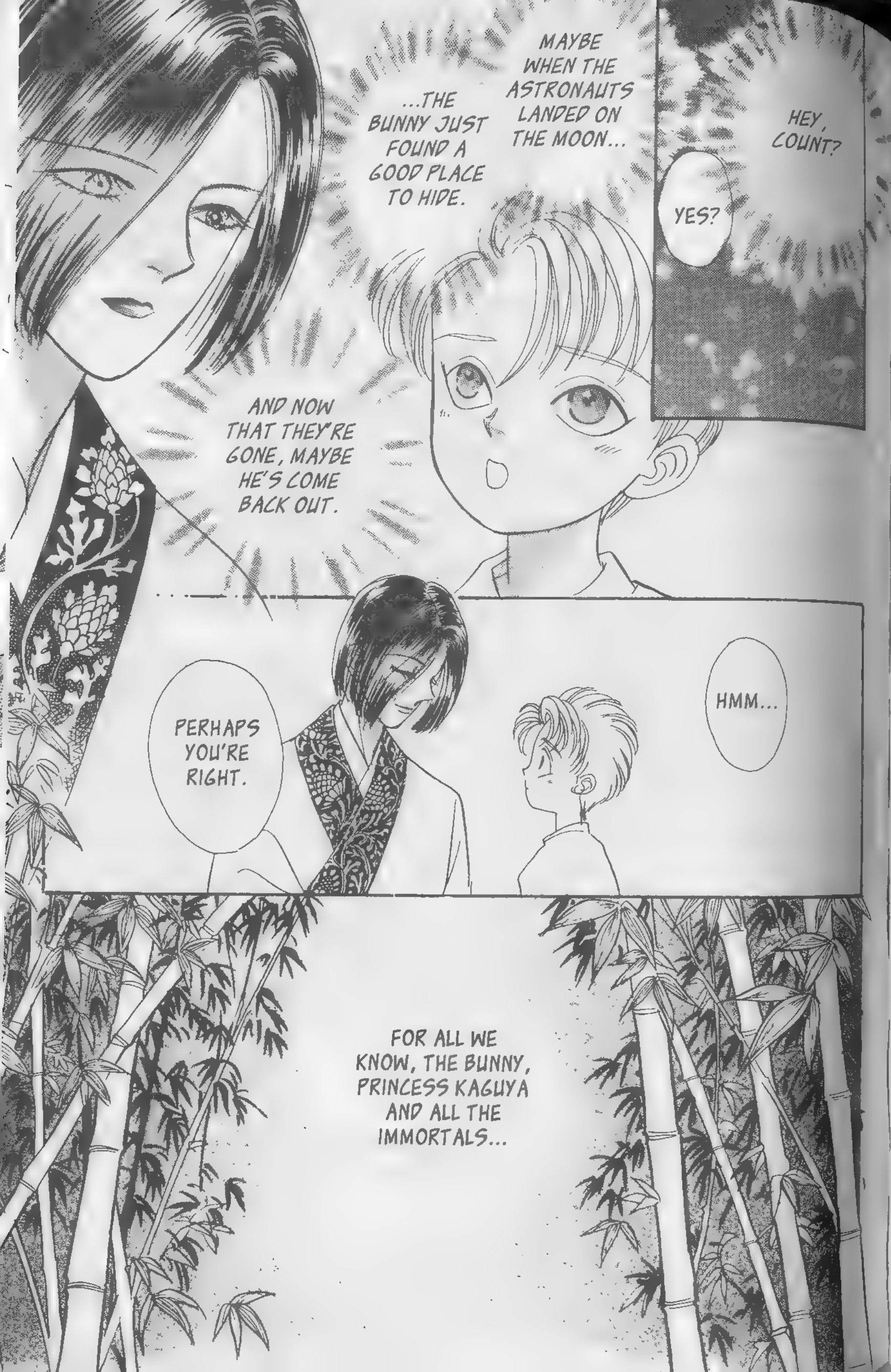

HEY, COUNT...
...IS THERE STILL A BUNNY ON THE MOON?
NO.
THERE HASN'T BEEN ONE IN 35 YEARS.
35 YEARS?
35 YEARS AGO, THREE BRAVE AMERICANS LANDED ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON...
...AND KILLED HIM.
THEY WHAT?!


IN ANCIENT CHINA, THEY CALLED THE MOON RABBIT GYOKUTO.
THEY BELIEVED HE WAS POWDERING MEDICINE FOR THE PEOPLE ON HERE ON EARTH.
NOW, IN JAPAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY BELIEVE A RACE OF IMMORTALS RULE THE MOON.
THEY SAY THAT ONE OF THEM, A PRINCESS KAGUYA, SHINES HER BEAUTIFUL LIGHT ON THE EARTH TO LEAD MEN ASTRAY.
HEY, MAYBE THE PRINCESS IS A BUNNY...
In high heels, wiggling her tail around...
OH, YEAH! SHE CAN LEAD ME ASTRAY ANY DAY OF THE WEEK!
No sense of culture...


THERE IS NO MOON RABBIT ANYMORE
NOR IS THERE A RACE OF IMMORTALS...
OR A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS...
ON THAT DAY MANKIND LOST THEM FOREVER.


THE APOLLO ASTRONAUTS AREN'T KILLERS, CHRIS. THEY'RE SOME OF OUR COUNTRY'S GREATEST HEROES!
HEY!
I HEAR YOU TELLING THAT SHIT TO MY BROTHER AGAIN AND I'LL KNOCK YOU TO THE MOON!
THEY AREN'T MURDERERS! THERE'S NO AIR AND WATER ON THE MOON. NOTHING CAN ACTUALLY LIVE THERE.
THERE NEVER WAS ANY RABBIT ON THE MOON. THE COUNT'S PULLING YOUR LEG.
...


PPPP
ORCOT, THERE'S BEEN A SHOOTING ON THE CORNER OF WILSHIRE AND FAIRFAX.
I NEED YOUR ASS ON THE SCENE YESTERDAY.
YOU GOT IT, CHIEF!
BIG BRO?
SORRY, CHRIS, I HAVE TO WORK.
バタン
'CAUSE WHILE THE FULL MOON MAY MAKE FOR SOME BEAUTIFUL NIGHTS...
...IT CAUSES ALL HELL TO BREAK LOOSE IN THE CITY.
BUT WE WORKED SO HARD PREPARING IT...
IT'S OKAY, CHRIS.
YOU CAN SEE THE MOON FROM ANYWHERE.


HEY, COUNT?
YES?
MAYBE WHEN THE ASTRONAUTS LANDED ON THE MOON...
...THE BUNNY JUST FOUND A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE.
AND NOW THAT THEY'RE GONE, MAYBE HE'S COME BACK OUT.
HMM...
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
FOR ALL WE KNOW, THE BUNNY, PRINCESS KAGUYA AND ALL THE IMMORTALS...

PET CATALOG

ペットカタログ

No.8

Mermaid

In this story a man meets a mermaid twice in the same place. That would be a first. Supposedly, mermaids in the North Pacific and South Pacific have different personalities. So they say...

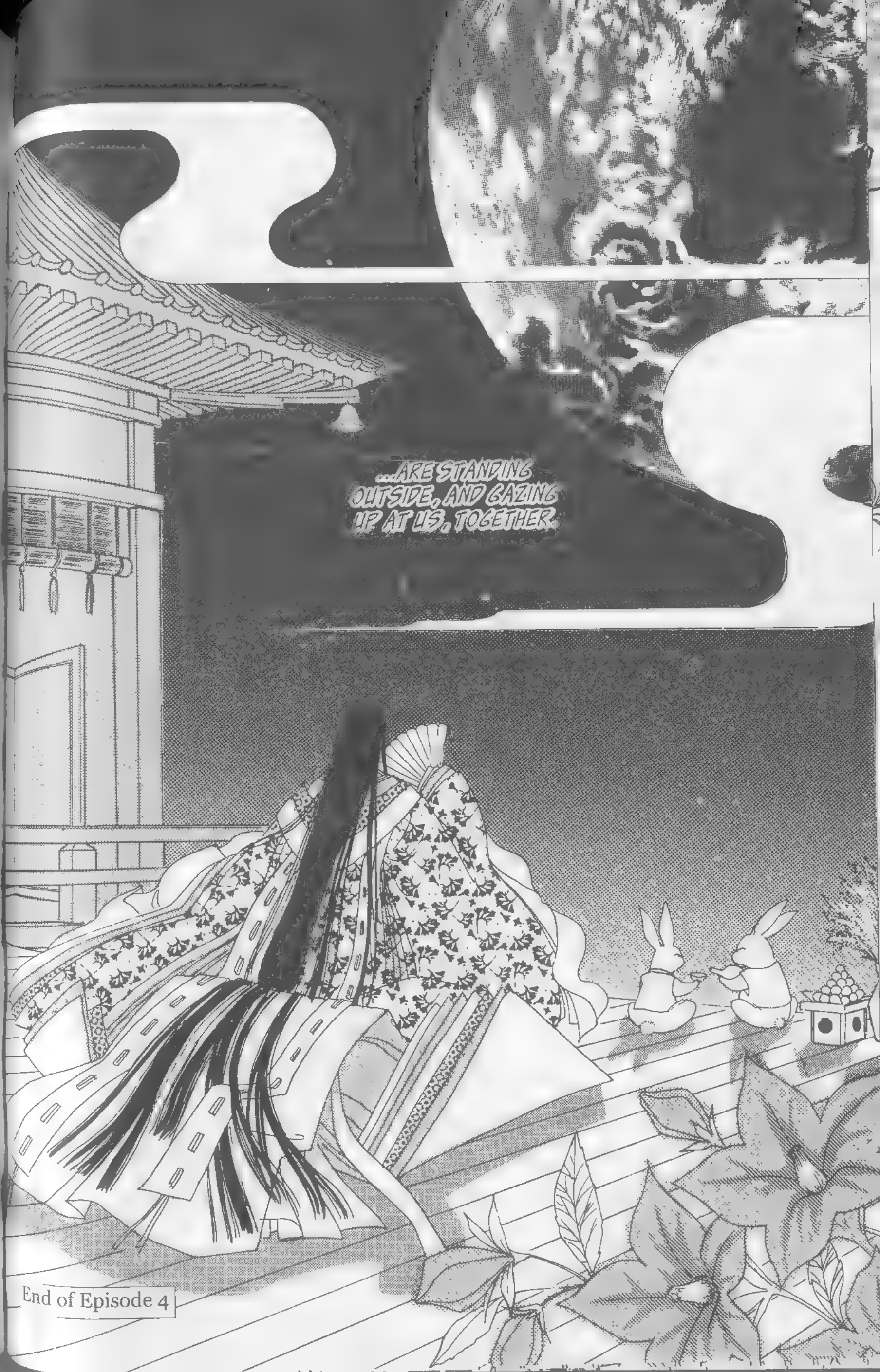
To those of you who are wondering why the Count would accompany Detective Orcot on his vacation... Well, without the Count, there wouldn't have been much of a story, would there?

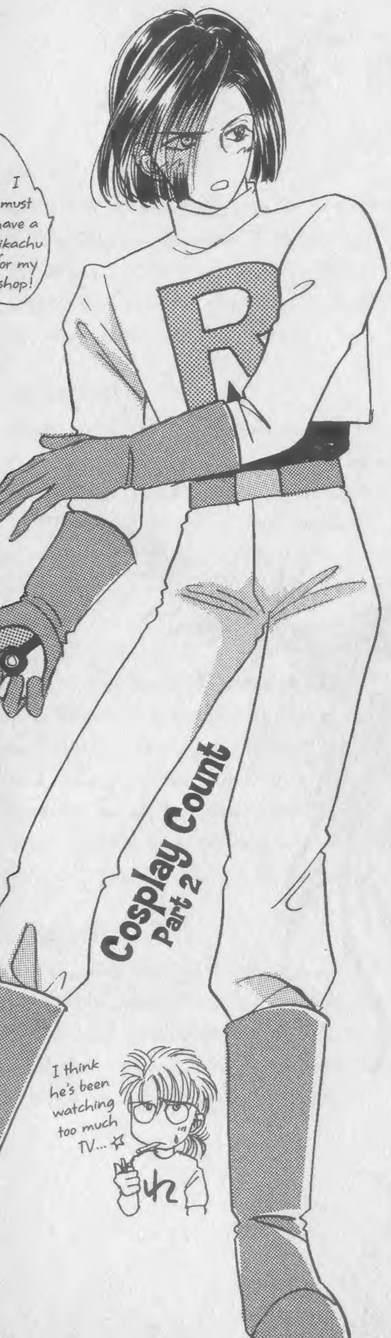
Nine-Tailed Fox

In Asia, the so-called nine-tailed fox is a cunning apparition that appears in inland areas to trick and seduce the mighty. No, I can't give you his phone number. Sorry. Heh, heh, heh...

Bluebird

The bird that appears on a weather vane.


...ARE STANDING OUTSIDE, AND GAZING UP AT US, TOGETHER.
End of Episode 4

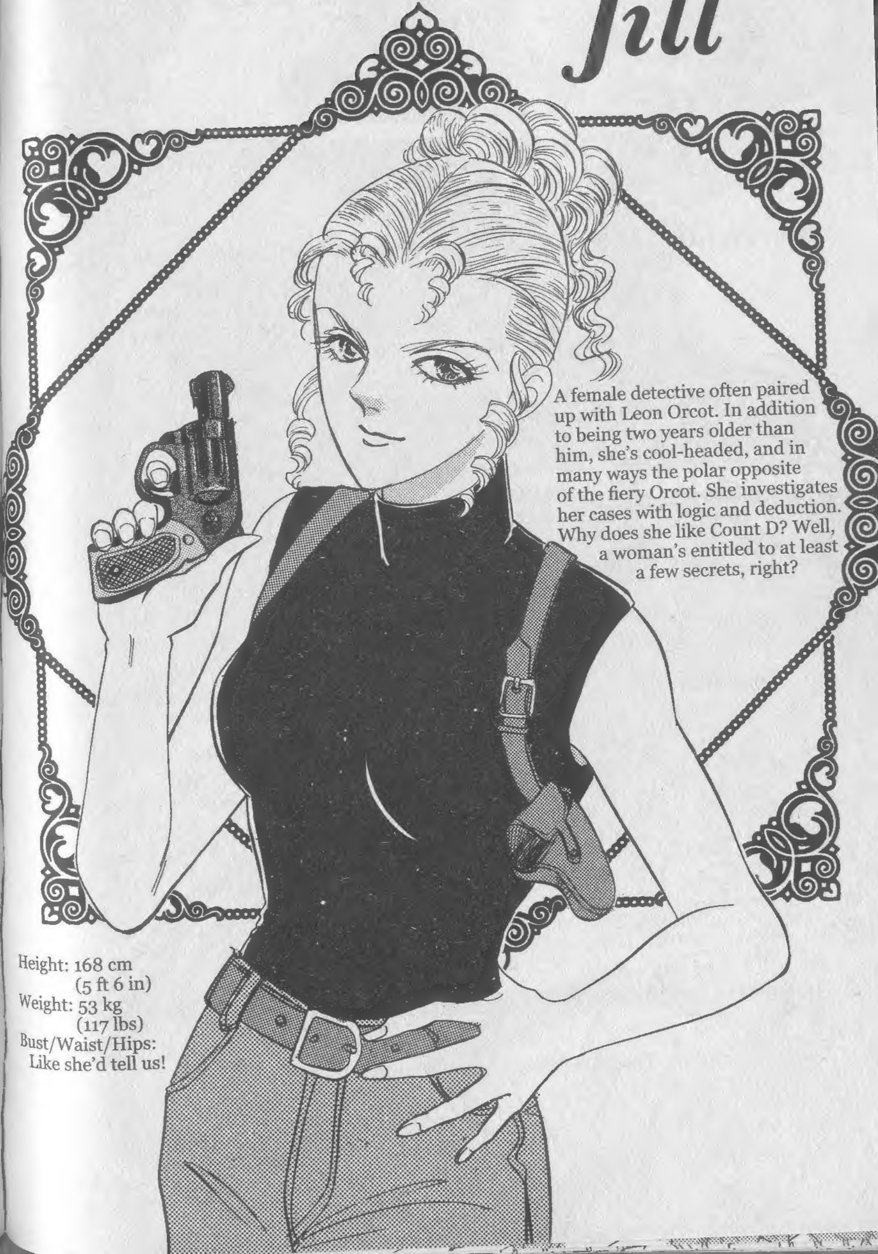

I must ave a ikachu or my hop!
Cosplay Count Part 2
I think he's been watching too much TV... ☆

Whew! Sometimes drawing manga can take a lot out of you. The Count's outfits may look similar, but they're all very different designs. It's a big job being a stylist, you know. (I even have to do all the curtains for the pet shop!)

Lately, I've been going for Chinese and Japanese styles more often. Basically, outfits that would fit in a Japanese ballad and not seem out of place. Of course, someone who lives in a Chinatown (in any country) might wear more current designs from China.

Ah, by the way, Mr. Detective's attitude is more like, "Anything's good," and "Who cares if it looks shabby?" Although Chris's taste in clothing is cuter, his clothes don't always suit him very well.

Jill



A female detective often paired up with Leon Orcot. In addition to being two years older than him, she's cool-headed, and in many ways the polar opposite of the fiery Orcot. She investigates her cases with logic and deduction. Why does she like Count D? Well, a woman's entitled to at least a few secrets, right?

Height: 168 cm
(5 ft 6 in)
Weight: 53 kg
(117 lbs)
Bust/Waist/Hips:
Like she'd tell us!

Next issue...

DUEL:
When the benevolent don of the Chinese mob dies, he leaves instructions on how he is to be succeeded. His successor is to obtain a rather unusual symbol of power--a tiger. But where can you possibly find a tiger in the city? Why, Count D's pet shop, of course.

DURABLENESS:
Young Julia has a problem. Every pet she's owned is murdered within a few days of being brought home. Her mother thinks it's her ex-husband, but Count D isn't so sure. He thinks the answer may lie in the past. Julia's doting mother has a surprisingly violent past, and old habits, as they say, die hard.

DESPERATION:
A good cop tends to make a lot of enemies, and Leon Orcot is a great cop. In this intensely personal story, the past collides with the present as a young woman wronged by Leon enacts her revenge on all he holds dear, a supporting character fights for his life, and Count D receives a phone call from his past...by way of his father.

DYNASTY:
When a teenage girl visits Count D to ask for his hand in marriage, it's not childhood folly--it's a curse. An ancient contract that has bound D's father and grandfathers resurfaces, and it's up to D to fulfill it. Will he succeed in ending the curse that has plagued his forefathers, or is he doomed to repeat their mistakes?

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Pet Shop of Horrors™

Welcome to Chinatown! During your visit, be sure to stop by Count D's pet shop, where love and dreams are sold in the form of exotic animals. But animals, as you know, have a tendency to get out of control...

DEEP: When Leon confronts a murderous mermaid, Count D might be the one swimming with the fishes.

DUMMY: Will a new pet keep a bickering family from fighting like cats and dogs...or end up sending them all to the kennel?

DEJA VU: Question: Who is Edna Hurry? Answer: A murder mystery that Leon is just dying to solve.

"*Pet Shop of Horrors* is a successful fusion of *Twilight Zone* anthology horror [with] shojo manga conventions."

-Scott Green, Ain't It Cool News

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